

THE North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. XXXVI., No. 974.

SHANGHAI, MARCH 17, 1886.

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CONTENTS.

Advertisements—Latest dates—Births, Marriages, and Deaths, &c.	
Arrivals and Departures of Passengers, Shipping, &c.	
LEADING ARTICLES—	
The Burden on Tea	277
SUMMARY OF NEWS	278
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES—	
Chinese Travellers to Europe	282
War Politics	282
Recent Torpedo Vessels	283
The new French Loan	283
English Customs Returns	284
Reviews—	
French-mail Papers	284
Lord Beaconsfield's Correspondence with his Sister, 1832-1852	286
OUTPORTS, &c.—	
Tientsin	287
Canton	287
Corea	288
Japan	288
PEKING GAZETTES	289
MEETINGS—	
Municipal Council	290
The Persk Tin Mining and Smelting Co., Ltd.	291
China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society	293
AMUSEMENTS—	
The Société Dramatique Française at the Lyceum	293
Shanghai Art Society	294
M. Vela's Concert	294
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Letter from Baron v. Teufelsdröckh to the President and Minister of the —	295
Lekin on Tea	295
Reuter's Telegrams and Mr. Gladstone	296
An Invitation to Missionaries	296
Missionaries and Residents	297
The Missionary Debate	297
A Mild Reproof	297
MISCELLANEOUS—	
Return of the Northern Steamers	297
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND WEEKLY SUMMARY—	
Market Reports	299
Exchange Quotations	304
Share Quotations, &c.	304

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

LATEST MAIL DATES.

England, ...	Jan. 29	Bankow, ...	Mar. 13
San Francisco, ...	30	Yokohama, ...	3
Hongkong, ...	Mar. 11	Nagasaki, ...	9
Tientsin, ...	12	Foochow, ...	10

The French mail of 3rd February, arrived in London on the 12th instant.

MARRIAGE.

At Trinity Cathedral, on the 11th instant, by the Rev. F. R. Smith, M.A., JAMES KENNEDY MORRISON to BESSIE, eldest daughter of D. G. Mantel, Ceylon.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Hiroshima Maru*, for Nagasaki—Capt. Taylor, and Mr. Lindholm. For Yokohama—Major Walker, Capt. S. W. Mills and Mr. J. A. Chalmers. For Hiogo—Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Freeman, Messrs. C. Heymann and W. F. Harris. For Liverpool—Messrs. S. B. Everett, G. J. Gulliver, and V. D'O. Wintle. Per str. *Yangtze*, for Hongkong—Mrs. and Miss Silbermann, Mrs. and Miss Mandel Lorne.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Avo*, from Marseilles, &c.—Messrs. Ch. Thevenet, wife, 2 children and governess, Jorret, Guichard, Streich, Flotow, Chamot, A. J. How, C. V. Smith, Myburg, Russell Shaw, T. G. Smith, Dent Smith, Fock, Lebarbier, F. V. Fonseca, Beurnann, Yanling, Look Hun-nan, Misses Beeber, Lewis and Finney, Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie and child, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson.
Per str. *Yokohama Maru*, from Japan—Mrs. Schreiber, Messrs. E. J. O. Rowland, Mawononuki, Maertens and S. Arac.
Per str. *Wismar*, from Nagasaki—Messrs. Kofoed and Tessensohn.
Per str. *Nanzing*, from Foochow—Mr. and Mrs. Cave Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Murray, Dr. and Mrs. Baldwin, and Miss Wilson.
Per str. *Yangtze*, from Hongkong—Mrs. Hamilton, and Mr. Dunham.
Per str. *Fooksang*, from Hongkong—Messrs. Allen, Sang and Hutchings.
Per str. *El Dorado*, from Tientsin—Mrs. von Dreusche, and Mrs. Kossov.
Per str. *Kowshing*, from Tientsin—Mr. and Mrs. Hobson and two children, and Mr. Krüger.
Per str. *Huean*, from Tientsin—Mr. Pell-dram (Ger. Consul), and Mr. E. Cameron.
Per str. *Wailee*, from Formosa—Mr. Birch.
Per str. *Fungshun*, from Chefoo—Mrs. and Misses (3) Moorhead.
Per str. *Ningpo*, from Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Bull, and Mr. J. Cooper.
Per str. *W. Cores de Vries*, from Hankow—Mr. Hjouabery.
Per str. *Chungking*, from Tientsin—Mrs. Cowen.

LEAVING.

Per str. *Saghalien*, for Marseilles—H.E. Liu Jui-fen, Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James, Lady Liu and suite, Madame Oriou, Madame von Dreusche, Mr. and Mrs. Hobson and 2 children, Madame Kossov, Messrs. Krüger, Ch. Möller, W. Fench and T. Courbon. For Hongkong—Messrs. Michaelson, Pellidram, Villanueva and W. Hill. For Saigon—Mr. A. H. Joly.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer		Thermometer in shade.		Hygrometer at 9 A.M.		WIND.		Rain-fall in inches previous 24 hours.
	8 A.M.	Attached Therm.	Max.	Min.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Force.	Direction.	
Mar 11	30.42	39.0	41.0	37.0	39.0	37.0	2	S.E.	..
12	30.20	42.0	43.0	40.0	42.0	41.0	2	S.E.	..
13	30.20	42.0	45.0	40.0	42.0	41.0	1	S.E.	..
14	30.16	43.0	44.5	41.0	43.0	41.0	2	S.E.	..
15	29.95	48.0	49.0	43.0	48.0	47.0	3	"	..
16	29.98	50.5	53.0	47.0	50.5	50.0	0	Z.	..
17	30.10	52.0	55.0	50.0	52.0	52.0	1	W.S.W.	..

EXPLANATION.
Initials: b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rate; s. snow; t. thunder; x. valid. Force from 1 to 21 estimated.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 17, 1886.

THE communication from Sir Robert Hart to the Tsung-li Yamèn on the preparation of tea, and the excellent letters of a Correspondent on the same subject

and on the taxation which the tea trade has to bear, have no doubt received every attention from our readers. Sir Robert Hart warns the Tsung-li Yamèn that unless very great improvement takes place forthwith in all matters connected with preparing China teas for foreign markets they will soon lose their position, the property of the tea merchants will be impaired, and thereby the welfare of the people, while the Imperial revenue would, as a matter of course, seriously suffer. He advised the Tsung-li Yamèn to place itself in communication with the Superintendent of Southern trade, requesting him to direct, in the clearest manner, all those concerned, that in future all improper ways of preparing tea should be abandoned, so that the Chinese article should be able to compete with the more carefully prepared teas of Japan, India, Ceylon, and other places. This advice of Sir Robert Hart is excellent; and we only hope that the publicity which has been given to it in the producing districts will have the effect he desires, and which is absolutely necessary to the preservation of the China trade in tea. But his figures of the export of Indian tea understated its amount, and as our Correspondent K. C. Y. pointed out in his second letter China does not now export nine-tenths of the tea consumed by the world, but only two-thirds of it. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, China exported almost as much as she does now, and at that time tea growing was in its infancy in India, and from there and other countries by which some 115,000,000 pounds of tea are now annually exported, almost nothing was then obtained. The present position of the China trade in tea as regards the competition it has to encounter is bad enough, but the outlook for the future is still worse; for, as Sir Robert Hart says, after a few years more have elapsed there is no saying what the amount of the export from other countries may be. This is a timely warning. Considering the vigour with which tea planting is being extended in India, Ceylon, Java, and Japan; the intelligence with which scientific methods of preparation are being used everywhere tea is cultivated in the British dominions, if not in Japan also, and the care with which planters and others interested in the industry adopt the advice of the Home trade in modes of preparing and packing their produce, the Chinese will require to do

not only what Sir Robert Hart recommends, but a great deal more.

But our Correspondent has clearly pointed out that, great as are the dangers from improper or dishonest preparation, the Chinese Government is doing more to injure the tea trade by the taxation which it permits to its subordinates than all the cheating practices of the country people. The amount of those imposts is almost sufficient to kill any trade, and certain to destroy one which is subjected to great competition. The plain truth is, that if the Chinese Government wishes to see the tea trade survive, not to say flourish, it must take steps to lighten the tekin and other charges on tea, and that so considerably as to give their growers, and merchants, and the foreign buyers, a chance with their rivals in other countries. We venture to say that Sir Robert Hart could scarcely do a better service to the present dynasty and to the Chinese people generally, than to place the naked truth about the provincial taxes on teas before the *Tung-li Yamen*. He will know how best to do this; and also the pressing necessity for reforms in this matter being undertaken. The newspapers published in India and Ceylon show the interest now taken in tea planting, and the Government Reports exhibit the official anxiety to foster the industry in every way. Contrast that care, and the intelligence with which the planters respond to the advice of the Home trade, with the grinding taxation of officials, not the Peking Government, and the apathy and dishonesty of the producers, and we have a complete explanation of the condition of the China tea trade. In India, energy and science are all hard at work, in China, indifference and a stupid dishonesty on the part of the peasants, with the rapacity of the mandarins, are destroying the main support of the credit of China. But despite the advantages which other countries may possess in the character of those who grow tea, in their intelligence, and readiness to try every means which are suggested for the improvement of their produce, we entertain no doubt that China can hold its own, if only the natives, who deal in it, get fair play. The Chinese tea merchants here and elsewhere are fully alive to the disadvantages which the exactions of the mandarins impose on them. We know how difficult it will be to effect any change in the fiscal system of the Chinese provinces, but if all that we should wish to see done cannot be done at once, let us have a beginning made. So far as regards taxes on tea on this side. But there remains the duty of six pence a pound levied in England on all qualities of tea. Some time ago we pointed out that this duty is altogether out of proportion to the value of the qualities of tea which are most largely consumed in England. Either real or supposititious difficulties have been raised by Chancellors of the Exchequer to the adoption of a juster scale of duties, and

deputations which have waited on the Treasury officials have been mollified by hints that the whole duty would be taken off at a convenient season. We can not hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will see his way to abolish the duty on tea this year. But there are reasons why those interested in the China and India trade should bring its abolition under his notice without delay. A duty of from fifty to one hundred per cent. on the tea which is mostly used by the working and poorer classes is indefensible, and ought to be repealed. It not only increases the cost of living, but it compels the consumption of tea of a very low quality. Friends of the people should remedy this; and the more quickly, that the demand which would certainly follow for teas of a better class, would lead to an increased demand here for the cloths and other manufactures that England is so anxious to supply to the Chinese. So long as such an irrational duty as that on tea, at all events as presently levied, is allowed to remain in the English fiscal system, the efforts of those Chinese who see the dangers which threatens their tea trade, and may desire to remove them, are likely to be frustrated. There will always be a powerful opposition in China to improvement of any kind. Then, the whole host of speculators combine against anything which tends to honesty in dealing with the public finances. It is clearly to the interest of foreigners that the hands of the obstructives and the dishonest should be weakened, and the abolition of the tea duty in England would help to do this. The London Chamber of Commerce and the recently formed Association for furthering Eastern trade might well take up the question of the tea duty. It would be to the gain of the India as well as the China trade that the duty should cease, and manufacturers as well as workmen in Europe and America would benefit thereby.

Summary of News.

The French mail of 29th January arrived here on the 12th inst., by the M.M. Co.'s str. *Ara*.

A mail leaves to-morrow morning for Europe, by the M.M. Co.'s str. *Saghalien*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

[BY EASTERN EXTENSION A. AND C. TEL. CO.]
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ILLNESS OF PRINCE BISMARCK.

London, 9th March.

Prince Bismarck is ill, and his rheumatism is increasing.

ANNAM.

The Annamite rebels have killed a French captain and ten men [at] Tourane [who had] advanced [from] Quinhone.

* * Reuter's Agent informs us that the words in brackets are doubtful.—Ed.

THE CHURCH IN WALES.

London, 10th March.

The House of Commons negatived the motion in favour of Disestablishment in Wales by 241 votes against 229.

THE ROUMELIAN AGREEMENT APPROVED.

London, 11th March.

The Ambassadors of the Great Powers to Turkey have approved of the Roumelian agreement as amended.

NEW FRENCH LOAN.

London, 14th March.

A new French Loan for one milliard (frs. 1,000,000,000) is announced, partially with a view to the conversion of the floating debt.

THE LONDON POLICE.

Sir Charles Warren will be appointed to the command of the London Police.

GOOD NEWS FROM EGYPT.

A treaty of peace has been ratified with the rebels in Egypt, and the army of occupation will be reduced by six regiments.

DISSENSIONS IN THE CABINET.

London, 15th March.

Mr. Gladstone has submitted to the Cabinet his Irish proposals; Mr. Chamberlain dissents and his resignation is expected.

We understand that Sir John Walsham, the new Minister to Peking, is expected at his post in June next; and that the new Opium Convention is expected to be ratified, and come into force, almost immediately.

It is announced that Mr. Li, the actual, not the adopted, son of H.E. Li Hung-chang, is to be sent as Chargé d'Affaires to St. Petersburg. He has at present the degree of *Chii-jen*; he is about to proceed at once to Peking to pass the next examination, which he will no doubt succeed in doing, and he is then to be despatched to his post.

Mr. Pellidram, Consul for Germany at Tientsin, arrived at Shanghai by the *Haeon* on Saturday on his way home. He has been appointed German Consul at Con-ton, but will not take up his new position until his return from leave.

The *Hupao* of Wednesday says that Shao, Taot'ai, will not go to Hongkong as it had previously stated; opium affairs are, it adds, to stand over until the arrival of the new British Minister.

Mr. J. Henningsen, General Manager of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, has been honoured by the President of the French Republic with the grant of the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

The German flag was hoisted for the first time at the new German Consulate on Wednesday. We understand that a number of German residents were present, and that the band of the *Nautilus* performed some national airs, and that the assemblage expressed the feelings appropriate to such occasions in the customary manner, with speeches, cheers and libations.

On Sunday morning, on the occasion of the King of Italy's birthday, a large number of Italian residents in Shanghai met at their Consulate, to express their devotion to their gallant and beloved Sovereign. Refreshments having been served, the Consul, Signor Finzi, proposed His

Majesty's health, which was warmly responded to. The health of His Gracious Queen was also heartily welcomed. On the proposal of Chev. Martin-Luiciarez, Chargé d'Affaires for Italy, a telegram was sent to the Italian Consul at Yokohama in the name of the Italians in China, to express fraternal feelings with the Italian colony in Japan.

Referring to the paragraph in our issue of last Wednesday, in which it was stated that Sr. Salcedo had been telegraphically recalled by his government, we are pleased to make a rectification of it, by giving the literal translation of the decree in the Official Gazette, of Madrid, January 26th.

"According to the request of D. Leopoldo de Alba Salcedo, my Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary to H.M. the Emperor of China, and H.M. the King of Siam,

"I grant the resignation he has presented of the same charge, and while declaring him ceasing from his duty, with the right of a corresponding classification, I express my full satisfaction for the zeal, intelligence and loyalty with which he has fulfilled his office.

"Given in the palace, this 25th of January 1886.

(Signed) MARIA CRISTINA.

The Secretary of State,
SEBASTIANO MORET."

In the same number of the Gazette we see that the example of Sr. de Alba de Salcedo was identical with that of all his colleagues accredited to the Foreign Courts and Presidents, and that a general movement of the Spanish diplomatic body has taken place. We are informed that Sr. Salcedo intends to leave Shanghai for home, in the latter part of April, after having given over charge of the Legation to the first Secretary, Sr. de Onis. We have no doubt that we express the feelings of the community in regretting the departure Sr. and Madame Salcedo, who during their stay have acquired great popularity in fashionable society.

In compliance with the Imperial Edict lately issued, the Manchu mandarins are sending their daughters to Peking, to enable the Emperor to make his choice of a wife. A young lady, the daughter of a Manchu at one of the River Ports, is on her way to Peking in the *Haeun* yesterday morning for this purpose.

Among the changes in the Customs Service which are being made in this Spring is the transfer to Hankow of Mr. J. W. Paterson, the Berthing Officer in charge of the Customs Station at Woosung. This gentleman has always been spoken highly of by Captains of vessels visiting this port, owing to his thorough knowledge of his duties, which has made his services of great value to them. Mr. Paterson some time ago published a map of North Formosa.

We understand that the Shanghai Electric Company has been requested, through the Spanish Minister here, to submit a tender to light the harbour of Manila with the Brush Electric Light, and the Company's Superintendent, Mr. A. D. Brown, has been sent to Manila to make the necessary preliminary survey and report.

M. Thévenot, a French engineer who has been appointed delegate for the French Syndicate to China, arrived here on Friday by the *Avia*.

The Shanghai Public School under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity will be opened on the 5th April, under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dallas.

The China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company has now been for some months under Chinese management once more, and there has been time to make a just estimate of the success of that management. It is notorious that under the rule of the former Directors, the Company was carried on with almost equal extravagance and inefficiency; and the excuse used to be made that it was impossible to carry on the Company properly until the official

element was entirely eliminated from it. To put the Company then, as Li Hung-chang decided to do, under the direction of two officials, Sheng Tao-t'ai, and Ma Tao-t'ai, was an experiment that was regarded with considerable distrust; but the result has entirely vindicated the Viceroy's judgment. Fortunately, the new official Directors are both men of sufficiently wide views not to be afraid of employing foreign assistance, Sheng, especially, having learnt in the administration of the Chinese Telegraph Service, for the general excellence of which he is mainly responsible, the impossibility of dispensing with foreign aid in the employment of foreign inventions. The new Directors have accordingly retained not only much of the system adopted by Messrs. Russell & Co., but the most indispensable of the foreign employees; and the result is that the Company is conducted by the Directors appointed by the Viceroy, with an efficiency and economy, undreamt of under the former native régime. Considering that Sheng is the great Viceroy's right-hand man, and therefore always likely to be employed when Li has determined to make other moves in the path of foreign progress, it is gratifying to China's well-wishers to see that he has been so successful in his present post, and that he recognises in the most practical manner the value of foreign assistance. The debentures lately issued by the Company have relieved it of all financial distress, and now that the pecuniary drains which so impeded the success of the Company under its old management have been stopped, there is every reason to expect it to give results as satisfactory to the shareholders as they will be creditable to the intelligence and energy of Messrs. Sheng and Ma.

The Spanish Government seem to be losing no time in giving due importance to their newly-acquired possession in the South Pacific. One of the first improvements to be made is the erection of a lighthouse in the port of Tomil in the island of Yap, which will be constructed with all despatch.

A Russian scientific expedition to proceed to China is being organised under the direction of Dr. Pjassetsky. The expenses will be provided partly by the Imperial Exchequer, and partly by the Moscow Commercial Committee.

It will be seen from reference to the extract from the *Peking Gazette* in another column, that the Chinese Commissioners allow that the dismissal of the foreign engineers from the Keelung coal-mines, a step which was taken from motives of economy "on account of the largeness of the salaries and miscellaneous expenses," was a mistake, the subsequent inefficiency of the working causing a loss greater than the amount saved by dispensing with foreign assistance; and Liu Ao the late Taotai of Formosa is blamed for his mismanagement accordingly. This should be comforting news for all foreigners in Chinese employ.

The Meeting of the Shanghai Literary and Debating Society on Thursday evening drew a full audience, the President occupying the chair. The resolution "that the value of Missionary labour in China is underestimated by Foreign lay residents" was well supported by Mr. Wade, and opposed with much vigour and skill by Mr. Campbell. In the subsequent discussion, Messrs. Fryer, Alabaster and Loehr spoke on the affirmative and Messrs. Dunn and Grayson on the negative. When the resolution was put to the vote it was lost by a small majority. Altogether this was a most successful debate; but, owing to the wish of some of the members, the Press was previously asked not to report the speeches.

A meeting of the shareholders in Birt's Wharf Company was held yesterday afternoon and was largely attended, 1,600 shares being represented. The proposal

of the General Managers to lease the business of the Company, paying the shareholders a fixed dividend of 7 per cent. was accepted, with only one dissentient.

The inaugural meeting of the Shanghai Young Men's Christian Association was held on Thursday night at the Temperance Hall, there being present, Archdeacon Moule, the Rev. W. Muirhead, the Rev. A. Williamson, L.D., and about twenty-eight intending members. Archdeacon Moule addressed the meeting upon the objects of the Association, which are, to promote among the members Christian unity, the increase of knowledge, both mental and religious, and the encouragement and promotion of all good Christian work. He was followed by Mr. Muirhead, who heartily endorsed the step which has been taken in the formation of the Association. The Secretary is Mr. Gilbert McIntosh, of No. 3, Minghong Road, to whom those desiring to join should apply.

Mr. C. P. Simões, the compiler, has sent us a copy of the "Amoy Diary and Memorandum Book" for 1886. The work is a useful one for Amoy residents, and the Diary contains a pretty full list of events that have occurred at Amoy.

A Chinese Correspondent at Sungkong sends us an account of serious anti-Christian riots which have taken place in Sungkong during the last few days. According to his account, a few strangers who had gone to Sungkong to pass their examinations went last Wednesday into the Roman Catholic Church compound, and wanted to pluck some flowers. They were prevented, and taking offence at this they went away, collected their friends, and returned, then broke into the houses in the Church compound, dragged out the furniture, smashed it, piled it up into a heap, and set fire to it; the Christian occupants of the houses having meanwhile all run away and hidden themselves. One of the city mandarins then sent a small body of soldiers to quell the disturbance, and after some time quiet was restored. The soldiers remained on guard at the Church, but next day the mob reassembled and tried to force their way into the compound. A soldier, in trying to prevent the men from entering, struck one of them on the head, drawing blood, and the mob then made their way to the mandarin's yamen, attacked the soldiers, and set fire to some houses. At the time of our correspondent's latest information the riot was still going on.

The Macao Correspondent of the *Daily Press* says that Senhor Roza's visit to Shanghai is to expressly enquire from Senhor Carvalho on whose authority he is negotiating with the Chinese Government for a treaty. The Correspondent is informed that Senhor Carvalho has neither the authority of Senhor Roza, the Portuguese Minister Plenipotentiary to China and Japan, nor of the Lisbon Government for the step he has taken, and the surmise is that the Chinese Authorities do not care to make the treaty which they are supposed to be willing to enter into with Portugal, with the Governor of Macao. The Chinese still consider the Holy City to be their own territory, and object to the Portuguese Governor of it being at the same time Minister to Peking.

In relation to the paragraph we quoted from the *Daily Press* concerning the Treaty of Portugal with China, we are glad to give more reliable information about this matter than was sent to the Hongkong paper by its Macao Correspondent. We are not aware how negotiations are getting on between the Consul-General of Portugal in Shanghai and the Chinese authorities about the conclusion of a treaty, but we are assured that Mr. J. J. Coelho de Carvalho was duly authorized in May of last year, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, to open negotiations with the Chinese authorities for the conclusion of a treaty between Portugal and China on the basis of the most favoured nation.

The Volunteers turned out for their second general parade of the training season on Saturday afternoon. The wet weather having reduced the ground within the Race Course to a condition unfit for infantry evolutions, the four infantry companies marched out to the upper boat-house, and performed such manoeuvres as the narrowness of the roads would permit. There was a fairly good muster.

We very heartily endorse the letter of "D." Missionaries, we are persuaded, do themselves and their cause much harm among their countrymen by holding themselves so much aloof from the other residents here and elsewhere. There is no doubt that the opinion of foreign lay residents as to the value of missionary work requires to be changed, at least among many who only know what missionaries are doing, by hearsay. This injures Missions, because that opinion being carried home by residents is communicated by them to their friends, who find it difficult to reconcile what is told them with what they read in the Reports of Societies. The missionaries would do good to their cause by frank and frequent communication with people here, and probably they would be surprised, and agreeably so, by the sympathy with their work which they would find in the community.

The last mail brought us the prospectus of a new prime motor, the *Eclaire engine*, a French invention, which has been taken up by English capitalists, and is being rapidly introduced. It is claimed for it that it is absolutely safe in every respect; it requires neither fire, steam, water, nor gas to produce the power; it is easily portable; it is capable of executing at a moderate expense every kind of work requiring motive power; it is easily and cheaply lubricated; it can be used where steam and gas engines are unavailable; its speed is uniform, and it is under perfect control, being started and stopped almost instantaneously and without waste; it is easily managed by unskilled labour; and it is independent of boiler or bulky fuel. The power is derived from hydrocarburated air, generated by the machine itself from mineral oil, and ignited automatically, the quantity consumed at each stroke of the piston being so trifling that the generator which produces it is small and easily portable. If the engine is a practical success, as it is claimed to be; and it has already been tried for stationary work, launches and tramcars, it has evidently a great future before it.

A cowardly assault was committed on a foreigner on the Bund last Wednesday night. It appears that a party of sailors who had been discharged from an American vessel, attacked the second mate, who had also been paid off. Bad blood had been engendered on board, so the sailors waited for an opportunity of settling old scores, and meeting the ex-second-officer when he was alone, they assaulted him in a most cowardly manner, inflicting serious injuries.

On Thursday night a foreigner was arrested on the French Concession for committing an assault on a jurichah coolie. While two French policemen were taking him to the station, another foreigner, a British subject and a friend of the man in custody, wanted to have the man released. He was accompanied by some British men-of-war sailors, but these last left after a time, and the first man went of his own account with the police to the station where he was locked up by the Sergeant on duty on a charge of interfering with the police. A resident bailed him out, but yesterday morning the French authorities mixed things up and sent a letter to Mr. Mowat stating that a British subject named Martin had committed the assault. The case came on for hearing at 2 p. m. on Friday, when a French policeman went into the witness box and stated that the defendant J. Martin did not strike the coolie, but that he had

been arrested for interfering with the police and trying to rescue the prisoner who was being conveyed to the station for striking the coolie. Mr. Mowat said he was glad the man before him had not committed the assault, and without taking further evidence dismissed him. He also told the French policeman to call his Superintendent's attention to the fact that the letter which had been sent was very inaccurate. It transpired that an American sailor, the actual assailant of the coolie, had been released by the French police. To prevent a miscarriage of justice, Mr. Mowat kindly wrote a letter and sent the plaintiff to the United States Consul.

Among the six hundred and twelve Chinese passengers who arrived from the River Ports on Thursday by the *Pekin* were a large number of students on their way to the examinations at Peking.

It is a great pity that the Chinese authorities do not take delivery of the 40-ton Armstrong guns, which are rusting at the Associated Wharves. We believe a foreign resident has obtained a contract to place the guns in position, that is when the Chinese see fit to remove them.

A sailor who assaulted a jurichah coolie on Friday night on the French Concession and who after being arrested by the French police was released by mistake, was summoned at the United States Consulate on Saturday and sentenced to ten days' imprisonment, besides having to pay the costs of the Court, and \$5 as compensation to the coolie.

The construction of a footpath along the Bubbling Well Road was a great boon to constitutionalists. In the worst weather it is comparatively dry, and walking along the road would be absolutely impossible without it, now that our native fellow-residents have developed such a love for being driven. But the footpath itself is exorciating. The rain washes off the surface the sand which was once put down, and the unfortunate wayfarer has to walk on a succession of hard sharp granite angles. Is there no one in the Council to suggest that this path should be remade altogether? There is no necessity for it to be as hard as the carriage way. Gravel or sand are to be had at no extreme cost; and if the footpath were remade with metal of which the components were rounded instead of angular, the blessings of the poor foot-pads would follow the Council to its last day of office.

The first three prizes in the Manila Lottery this month, have fallen respectively to numbers 10,537; 22,632; and 14,962.

A new steamer, the *Formosa*, arrived at Hongkong on the 3rd instant for the Douglas Steamship Company. She is 674 tons register and has been designed for the Formosa trade, for which she has a light draught. She was built by Messrs. Wigham, Richardson, & Co., of the Neptune Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The vessel is 225 feet in length over all, 32 feet beam, and 20 feet depth of hold, and draws, when fully loaded, 13 feet. Her engines are of the latest kind, triple expansion, and on her trip they propelled her at a speed of twelve knots. She is a very compact, well arranged boat, with good accommodation for ten first class passengers, and from 400 to 500 Chinese passengers. She is fitted with every convenience, and all the latest improvements, and promises to be a useful and profitable addition to the line.

According to the report of the *Francisca*, which arrived at Hongkong on 5th instant, from the Carolines, the German flag was still flying at Yap on the 20th February. It was expected that a German man-of-war would proceed to haul it down.

In Shanghai there are no less than six Post Offices, viz., British, French, Japanese, American, Customs and Local. The first two deliver uncalled for letters, etc., through their own coolies, while the Japanese sends

no extra charge to the addressee. With the American Post Office it is different. The United States Postal Authorities do not undertake to deliver the mails when received here. If a long has a box at the U. S. Post Office, well and good, the renter of the box can send his coolie and get the mail, but if a person does not rent a box, his letters are after an interval, sent to the Local Post Office, which delivers them free, if the addressee is a subscriber to the latter establishment, but if he is not, he has to pay twenty cash on each letter or paper, which, in the case of the paper is equal to the postage charged from the United States to Shanghai. This extra charge ought not to be made, and if the United States Postal Department would subscribe to the L. P. O. as the Japanese Post Office does, every addressee would receive his correspondence free. We believe, however, that the U. S. Postal Department in Shanghai would willingly subscribe to the L. P. O. but there is never any provision made by Congress for this purpose.

Mr. Phelps, the U. S. Minister to England, has sent the following statement to Washington of the attitude of the British Government towards bimetalism:—"From these and other sources I am satisfied that the British Government will inflexibly adhere to their past and present policy in respect to coinage; that they will not depart from the gold standard now and so long established: that they will not become party to any international arrangement or union for the creation of a bimetallic standard at a common ratio between gold and silver for the purpose of making both an unlimited legal tender, nor adopt such double standard in Great Britain. On this point both political parties quite concur. And I believe if either were to attempt to introduce such a departure from the existing money standard it would be driven out of power by the force of public opinion."

How great cities rise has been shewn, and is still being shewn, all over the United States, but to New Orleans is assigned the melancholy task of shewing how great cities decay. Its trade is leaving it by leaps and bounds; it used to export seventy per cent. of the cotton crop, it now exports only twenty-six per cent.: it used to import eighty per cent. of the coffee, it now imports only seven per cent. Enormous sums have been spent in the improvement of the port, and a Great Exhibition has been held, without avail. It was the Mississippi that made New Orleans, and as long as the great river was the chief channel of trade for the West, New Orleans flourished in spite of the poorness of its harbour and the undesirability of its situation and climate. Commerce goes no longer by the Mississippi, but by rail, and this change has dealt a death-blow to New Orleans; and now the population, despairing of retrieving the city's fortunes by any practicable effort, is beginning to leave it. We have heard comparisons made between New Orleans and Shanghai: let us hope that the introduction of railways into China will not do us the harm that their extension has done to the Crescent City.

The *Nation* asks—"Does prohibition prohibit?" Let Maine answer. The total number of persons committed to jail in that State during 1885 was 3,395, of whom 183 were sentenced for selling liquors (an increase of 38 over 1884) and 1,761 for drunkenness (an increase of 441 over 1884). After all this is flashy but misleading. No prohibition can hope to prohibit absolutely; to judge of its value in Maine, we should have to compare the statistics of drunkenness, with those in a free State where the conditions of life were generally similar. Maine is cursed with a climate in which for some months of the year the temptation to 'take a drink to keep the cold out' is almost irresistible.

According to the Canton Correspondent of the *China Mail* the preparation of

nitre is now extensively carried on at Wang Sha in the Namhoi's district, at no great distance from Canton. This trade is now said to be exceedingly profitable, and a large number of hands are employed. We hear that the success of the operation is due to good management, and that large returns are expected from the present mode of working at the manufactory. The preparation of nitre is one of the industries licensed by the government.

The Canton Correspondent of the *China Mail* says under date 2nd March:—A telegram received in Canton from two officials of high rank, one a Lieutenant-General and the other formerly Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Kuang-si, informs the authorities here of an affray at Ko-chow between the military in that district and organised robber bands. The affair took place on the fifteenth day of the month (Chinese). The soldiers fell upon the robbers, killing nineteen on the spot and taking between twenty and thirty prisoners. Several hundred robbers are said to have been wounded. The officials telegraphing this information have reason to think that in a few days order will be restored in the Ko-chow district. Its present disturbed condition is said to be owing in great measure to the troops of disbanded soldiers, who have joined the robbers, bringing a large accession of strength to the bands of lawless and desperate men who infest the district.

The *Daily Press* says:—The P. & O. str. *Thames* is now safely in Aberdeen Dock, and the nature of her injuries has been made apparent. About three feet of her fore foot have been torn away, about 29 feet forced back, and about a dozen plates broken or twisted. It is anticipated that her repairs will take about a month to carry out. No contract for them has been made as yet.

In the Hongkong papers, the telegram of the 4th instant regarding the outrages on Chinese in America runs thus:—"President Cleveland has refused to entertain the demand (for an indemnity), and the Governor of Canton has telegraphed to the Chinese Minister at Washington, pointing out that he entertains grave fears that, if the demand is not complied with, the Chinese will threaten reprisals."

The *Daily Press* prints a letter from Hoi-how announcing the loss of the Chinese gunboat *Sui Tsing* on a rock near Nan-chau. The vessel sank in shallow water; a part of the crew were sighted in their boat by the steamer *Partridge* and taken into Hoi-how. All hands were saved.

The *Daily Press* of 8th instant says:—The French Mail steamer *Ara*, while on her passage from Saigon to this port, ran into a junk yesterday morning at about 4 o'clock. The junk showed no light at all, and the night being very dark and foggy, the accident is easily accounted for. The junk was sunk, but the *Ara*, having reversed her engines, immediately after the accident happened, was able to pick up the whole crew, consisting of eighteen men.

The Japan papers state that the fire Insurance Companies represented at Yokohama, to the number of forty, have come to an arrangement whereby a charge of fifty cents will be levied on each policy of insurance or renewal issued after to-day for less than \$10,000, and of one dollar on policies of insurance for over that amount, the sum accruing to be placed in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to the credit of the Yokohama Fire Brigade and to defray the expenses thereof.

The Japan papers received by the mail on Thursday contain notices of the late Mr. T. R. H. McClatchie, of Her Majesty's Consular service. It appears that the deceased gentleman injured his health about two years ago in training for athletics, and although an illness which he contracted then was thought to be slight, yet he was in bad health since then and in a critical con-

dition not long ago. From this he rallied sufficiently to travel homewards; but as we stated lately he died at Penang. The *Herald* says he was a son of the late Canon Mc-Clatchie, formerly of Shanghai, and a nephew of the late Sir Harry Parkes. After passing the usual civil service examination, the deceased was appointed a student interpreter to Japan in 1870. In 1873 he was promoted to be second class assistant, and to the first class, in 1882; he filled the position of Acting Vice-Consul in Tokio, 1878, and was for a short time Acting Consul at Yokohama, finally holding the post of Registrar to the Court there. During his leave in London he read for the bar, and passed a most satisfactory examination in Roman law, and had his life been spared, he would no doubt, have pursued his legal studies until called. He had during his time of residence in Japan acquired a good knowledge of the language, and some acquaintance with its literature. He contributed several papers of antiquarian interest to the transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, but his principal achievements with his pen were "*Japanese Plays (versified)*" on the model of the *Ingoldsby Legends*, and scarcely inferior to them in point of literary excellence, and the able article "*Japan*," in the latest edition of that standard work, the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

The *London Gazette* of the 22nd January contains the following announcement, dated December 23rd:—"The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Edward Colborne Baber, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Chefoo, to reside at Chefoo. The Queen has also been graciously pleased to appoint Byron Brenau, Esq., now Her Majesty's Consul at Chefoo, to be Her Majesty's Consul for the Consular Districts of Tientsin and Peking, to reside at Tientsin."

In the House of Commons, on the 22nd January, Mr. McLaren asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs about the German Syndicate, concluding by enquiring if Her Majesty's Government had taken any steps "to secure for British manufacturers all contracts for railway material required by China." To this Mr. Bourke the Under Secretary replied "We have heard the rumour referred to by the hon. member, but we have no means of knowing whether any loan will be brought out by the syndicate in question. The attention of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking has however been called to the subject. It would be altogether contrary to the usual practice of the British Government to interfere with the manner in which the Government of China may see fit to raise loans. Her Majesty's Government will, if the occasion arises, be ready to give such assistance as they can properly afford in support of British manufacturing and commercial interests in China, but they could not take the steps suggested in the 3rd clause of the hon. member's question. On which Mr. McLaren further asked—Are we to understand that the right hon. gentleman lays down the principle that Her Majesty's Government will in no circumstances interfere with foreign Governments on behalf of English commerce in competition with the commerce of other countries? Mr. Bourke rejoined—I said just the reverse. I said that the Government would always be very glad to give such support as may properly be given to gentlemen engaged in commercial affairs."

The London Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* under date 23rd January says that relations between China and Russia were then in a state of considerable tension. The Russians complain that the Chinese officials carry matters with a very high hand, and are in the habit of settling difficult and disputed matters on the frontier by at once despatching troops to the place and ejecting Russian subjects. The Chinese on the other hand say that the

Russians habitually commit aggressions across the frontier, wherever it is not vigilantly guarded. The breaking up of a Russian gold digging camp after a pitched battle is the latest of these. Probably, the Correspondent says, the Marquis Ts'ung would not leave England for some months to come, as the Chinese Government does not wish to commit several important matters that are open to a comparatively untried hand.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"The Cunard Company again stands proudly at the head of the Atlantic Line enterprises. Last year it carried 12,026 cabin passengers to New York in 52 trips, the North German Lloyd ranking next, with 8,858 passengers in 107 trips. The greatest numbers of steerage passengers to New York were carried by the Continental companies—the North German Lloyd heading the list, with 68,395, carried in 107 trips, and the Hamburg American standing next with 38,943, taken over in 76 trips. The English line which carried the most emigrants was the White Star Company, in whose vessels 24,123 went in 52 trips; with which the Inman line almost stands on an equality. Altogether 25 companies conveyed 55,160 cabin and 281,170 steerage passengers to New York, in 843 trips. The Cunard Company's steamship *Etruria* also made the four fastest passages of the year. In August she did the distance between Queenstown and New York in 6 days, 5 hrs., and 44 min., the fastest voyage ever accomplished. The next best trip on record was made by the Havre steamer *Normandie*, and generally it was a year of remarkable passages. But we are afraid that the financial results of all these voyages will far from compensate for the ingenuity, skill, and money of which they are the issue. Yet the expedient of raising the fares may materially contract the traffic."

A writer in the January number of *Notes and Queries* is of opinion that the customs of the country in Formosa are worth noting for comparison with those of Indian aborigines. A Formosan wake is rather a curious celebration. When a man dies, his body is slung up, by the hands and feet, on a sort of scaffold; and a fire being lighted close by, the defunct is literally smoke-dried. Meanwhile all his kinsmen and friends meet together to celebrate his obsequies, feasting on pig's flesh and strong drink; every woman invited bringing a vessel of Formosan spirit with her. The chief feature of the entertainment is a singular kind of dance. They cut down a tree; and the women dance on the trunk. Eight or ten of them dance at a time, back to back:—"hopping like magpies and making, except with their feet, scarcely any movement with their limbs or bodies; the dancers, during this performance, remaining as mute as their state of intoxication permits." The dance often lasts for hours, one party when tired being relieved by another. The corpse is kept hanging up for nine days or so; and is then hung up on a second scaffold till nothing is left but a skeleton, which in the third year is buried. A strange tale from Formosa, which might also interest Captain Temple, the learned editor, will be found in Hamilton's account of the East Indies. In the year 1650, according to Hamilton, a strange distemper raged on the island. Young girls between twelve and eighteen, for some unknown reason, took to hanging themselves with such persistency, says the narrator, "that very few maidens were left on the island, nor could any remedy be found to prevent it." At last an old Chinaman addressed himself to the King, and advised him, whenever a girl committed suicide, "to hang her up by one leg on the sides of the highways for passengers to gaze on." The King, says Hamilton, took his counsel; and in one month's time, he quaintly adds, "the maidens refrained from hanging themselves, and have continued good girls ever since."

Miscellaneous Articles.

CHINESE TRAVELLERS TO EUROPE.

THE Government of India lately appointed Messrs. Cook & Sons, the well known tourists' friends, agents for the whole of India, for the personal conducting of Mahomedan pilgrims to Jeddah and back. Messrs. Cook & Sons will arrange everything necessary for the comfort and well being of the pilgrims, with the railway and steamship companies. The advantages thus given to pilgrims might very well be extended to other classes of natives in the East. It appears to us probable that Messrs. Cook would find it to their interest to try what could be done in inducing Chinese gentlemen to form parties for European and American travel. It might require some time to get Chinese to take to the idea, but once they did so the number of travellers would be very great, as there is a strong desire among many of them to see the foreign countries of which they hear so much. The language difficulty would be greatly done away with, if the tours were conducted by gentlemen acquainted with Chinese, as they would require to be, and of these there would be several easily procurable, and their number is always increasing. If Chinese speaking foreigners could not be obtained, there are a numerous body of English and French speaking Chinese who would be glad of opportunities of seeing other countries, and at the same time earning money. We have always advocated foreign travelling for the Chinese, as a means of improving not only individuals but also their country, by the new ideas and notions of people and things which the travellers would bring back. We can easily understand how very few Chinese, of the class likely to wish to go abroad purely for improvement and amusement, are likely to trust themselves away from their own country unassisted by the services which foreigners could best render them. And many of those who under the impulse of an adventurous spirit set out on their travels, are probably deterred by the unknown expenses they might incur. Under a proper tourist system they would know pretty well what a sight of Europe would cost them, and any additional expenses would be their own affair. We are aware that small parties of Chinese youths have been accompanied in tours abroad by foreigners, but these excursions have been few. What we wish to see is numbers of educated Chinese gentlemen going to western countries, acquiring in them some knowledge of the ways, pursuits, strength and weakness of their inhabitants and institutions; and, disseminating such knowledge as they may acquire and the opinions they have formed therefrom among their own people. Nothing is more likely to have a good effect, not only among the Chinese who stay at home, but among the peoples on the other side whom they would

visit. Large numbers of Indian gentlemen go to Europe every year, on pleasure and for their own improvement. Indian gentlemen are beginning to see that some knowledge of other lands is a necessary part of a liberal education. There is already some inkling of this among the best class of Chinese, and when proper modes of seeing the world are offered to them, we are prepared to see many hundreds, and after a time thousands of Chinese availing of them every year, until making a Grand Tour is considered necessary to complete a gentleman. As singular changes in the Chinese way of looking at foreign things as this would imply have occurred within the last ten or fifteen years, and it is the beginnings of liberal movements among people, whether Westerns or Easterns, whose thoughts and habits have run in certain restricted grooves, which are slow. Once people commence to emancipate themselves from the pressure of the past, once a few forward steps have been taken, an always increasing curiosity is awakened, and more and more people, masses of them, come into the forward movement. With fair play all the progress in the reception of foreign ideas which the Chinese have made during the last dozen years or so, ought to be trebled or quadrupled during the next decade, in extent and strength, as part of a liberal movement of which they perceive the utility. There is a great deal of humanity in human nature, as Sam Slick noticed, and what has happened to other people who have been incited to travel by reading of other countries, will happen to the Chinese. Perhaps we may even see the Government at Peking encouraging foreign travel among the students of the Haulin college, the young men of family, and the golden youth of the Eighteen Provinces. Why not? As great changes have occurred; and the Chinese are sharp enough to perceive the advantages which seeing the world would give to the rising generation. Travel might be adopted as part of the discipline necessary to enable a Chinese of position to bear himself fittingly in the new state of affairs, and would not be regarded as the same thing as education at a foreign university, though, of course, it might be enjoyed during the same absence from home. Probably the first persons to carry out a complete scheme of travel for Chinese will reap a rich harvest. They will need some patience, to wait for results, and judgment and suavity in the conduct of their tours, but success within a reasonable time may be looked for.

WAR POLITICS.

THERE are quite as many ways by which a powerful State may take possession of its neighbour's territories, as by which a strong man may possess himself of another's goods. There is war, which, although out of fashion some thirty years ago, has since come in again. Treaties and accommodations

are also useful means of acquiring territory, but they are generally preceded by war. Then there is the manner in which England obtained most of her possessions, which Professor Seeley describes as "having conquered half the world in a fit of absence of mind." Again, the hard necessity which obliges nations advanced in civilization to absorb bit by bit, province by province, kingdom by kingdom, half a continent; the rulers and inhabitants of which will not see what is best for them—that is for their more enlightened and powerful neighbours. This necessity is generally called by the encroachers a special duty laid upon them by Providence. Another way of 'conveying' weak States is that which the Baron Goudremark in 'Prince Otto' induced the wife of that frivolous princeling to adopt. Make an unjust claim on a weak neighbour; secretly prepare your forces to invade his territory, taking care that your army is in proper proportion to the one it is going to meet—say five thousand fully equipped soldiers with artillery and stores, all complete, against fifteen hundred unprepared men, some of whom like the legions of Liu Ao in Formosa have possibly only a paper existence. Then there are the savages and half savages in such places as New Guinea, Borneo, Sumatra, and Madagascar, besides many black people and potentates in the African continent, all of whom, if they read the newspapers regularly, must have an uncomfortable feeling in their minds that civilisation, armed with weapons of precision, is merely waiting for a leisure time, or for a good pretext, to absorb them and turn to account the commercial advantages which their country offers. The absorption by a civilization which insists on a certain amount of work every day and an increasing demand for shirtings and other European imports, may be beneficial, but it cannot be pleasant to the unadulterated savage. If the journals or autobiographies of any of the princes who were dispossessed of their kingdoms in Britain by the Jutes and Engles should ever be recovered and made known to the world, we would probably find that their feelings were not different from those of the negroes and Papuans who are being improved off their own country by strong invaders from the West.

England has now no war on her hands, for the trifles in Burma and the Soudan are not worth the speaking about. It would seem as if the depression which has afflicted commerce has also fallen on bloodshedding. But, just as manufacturers and merchants hope that trade will soon improve, so there are not wanting indications that there will be more lively times anon for fighting men. There is Greece, either ready to fight with Turkey or making believe that she is. Servia is armed to the teeth, and probably only waits an opportunity of taking

her enemy unawares. All the South-eastern States are in a volcanic condition. Now we hear that one cone is throwing forth lava and dust, again it is another, and yet again it is half-a-dozen all in a wild, mad uproar. The other kingdoms in Europe are obliged to keep themselves prepared for contingencies, because it suits the greed, ambition and conceit of these petty States to live together on the worst possible terms. Greece now threatens to go to war, afraid that if she did not after all her talking she would be the laughing-stock of Europe. We shall have Servia saying something of the same kind as soon as she thinks she is strong enough to fight Bulgaria again. Meanwhile the Porte sees the time coming nearer when it must go bag and baggage out of Europe, but as it will probably fight desperately at the last, the prospect 'gives hope to the valiant and prospect of war.' That war will ultimately result from the present state of matters in and near the Balkan Peninsula, is taken for granted by those who are wise in reading the future. Innumerable evils, other people who are perhaps not wise say will follow. There is to be a general convulsion. Germany will put Holland in her pocket, Belgium is to disappear, the Slavs, Czechs and Germans are to destroy each other; but somehow the Slavs are afterwards to overrun the world. England, impoverished by a fruitless struggle to obtain more territory in New Guinea, will endeavour to replenish her finances by an invasion of France, for which she has long been secretly preparing, allured by the overflowing treasury of the Republic; and France will revenge herself by the conquest of Canada, for which she is thoroughly prepared, where millions of disaffected patriots are breathlessly waiting the coming of the tri-color. If what the newspapers predict comes to pass, it will be a very nice world in ten years.

RECENT TORPEDO VESSELS.

THE possibility that a huge ironclad costing a million sterling may be sunk at one blow by a torpedo launched from a boat costing less than one hundredth of that amount has been turning the attention of all the naval departments of Europe to the construction of sea-going torpedo boats. The wonderful launches built by Yarrow and Thornycroft, these steel boxes of machinery running some twenty miles an hour, have been found to be of little use except in smooth water. First-class boats of 100 to 130 feet in length have made long ocean voyages: but they have to be specially prepared and rigged for such voyages, and they are so wet even in a moderate sea, that life on board them is almost unendurable, and if the sea is not 'like a mill-pond' they cannot keep up their speed or fight their torpedoes. Ten years ago (we take these facts from a recent *Times*) the Germans had built on the Thames a sea-going torpedo-boat named the *Zieten*. She

was 200 feet long by 29½ feet beam, with a displacement of about 1,000 tons. She was engaged by Penn, and attained a speed of 16 knots, but her torpedo fittings were a failure, and she has remained the only one of her class. The Italians at the same time built a vessel 200 feet long and 21 feet beam, of 550 tons displacement, called the *Pietro Micca*, but she proved a complete failure as to speed. Other European nations have made similar attempts, but their vessels have nearly all failed in the important quality of speed. After an interval of some years the French took the matter up seriously, and being, as they undoubtedly are, the first ship-designers in the world, with success. Their torpedo avisor, or *Bombes*, are 180 feet long, 22 feet beam, 6 feet draft, and about 350 tons displacement. They have a speed of 17 knots and can keep the sea, the only doubtful point about them being their boilers. Their success has stimulated the other Governments of Europe. England began to construct *Grasshoppers*; the Italians are copying the French; while other nations are having similar vessels built on the Clyde. Meanwhile Mr. J. S. White of Cowes has been building on his own account a torpedo vessel about 150 feet long, which has attained a speed of 21 knots, and has been acquired by the Admiralty. The larger class built by the French are called *Condors*; they are 216 feet long, 29½ beam and 1,300 tons displacement. To make certain of success, the French Government ordered the first sets of engines for this class from England, and these vessels are expected to go 17 knots and carry their crews comfortably to any part of the world. On the *Condors* our Admiralty has played the new *Scout* class, one of which is already built and is now fitting out for sea, while nine others are on the stocks. The *Scout* made 17½ knots on trial.

The Austrian Government determined in 1884 to go still better, and asked for tenders from the chief English shipbuilders for a torpedo cruiser of about 1,500 tons displacement, to steam 17 knots without forced draught. The plans and tender of Sir W. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co. were accepted, and in June last the *Panther* was launched, and made her official speed trials at the end of last year. The *Panther* is 224 feet long, 34 feet beam, has a mean draft of 14 feet, and a displacement of 1,560 tons. She has independent engines and twin screws, and her machinery is protected in the most thorough manner possible. Her speed trials were most successful, the mean speed of six runs at the measured mile with natural draught only being 17.6 knots. She was next taken to sea for 24 hours' continuous steaming, and in the course of it she ran 70.6 knots in four hours. Immediately at the end of this 24 hours,—a severe test to a perfectly new vessel,—she made six runs on the measured mile with forced draught, the mean speed

being 18.4 knots. She is thus far ahead of even our latest torpedo ships, the *Scouts*. The only vessel of equal displacement of similar speed is the French despatch vessel *Milan*, which in one trial attained 18.4 knots. But she is one-third (76 feet) longer than the *Panther*, and therefore far less handy. It is now reserved for our Admiralty to beat the *Panther* and her sister-ship, the *Leopard*, and it is not to be supposed that the resources of our naval architects and engineers are yet exhausted. Indeed, the last mail brings news of the trial of a new torpedo-boat, the *Adler*, built by Messrs. Yarrow & Co. for the Austrian Government, which, loaded down to her normal draft, attained a speed of 22.4 knots on the measured mile. But as her size is not stated in the report, it is doubtful whether she is a sea-going torpedo cruiser, or only a torpedo-boat.

THE NEW FRENCH LOAN.

NOTWITHSTANDING many rumours, having the appearance of being from Official sources, which have been in circulation in Paris since the formation of the De Freycinet Government, that no loan would be issued this year, it appears from the telegram in our columns to-day that a new loan for the respectable sum of £40,000,000 has been announced. Probably this is under an arrangement with some of the great Paris finance houses, who were said a short time ago to have a scheme for the conversion of the French debt, or a part of it, under consideration. The position of the French finances has for a considerable time made the issue of a loan appear inevitable. But the Ministerial Declaration, of the 16th of January, said that the Ministry counted on attaining the equilibrium—of the finances—without having recourse to a loan for the various services and the colonial expenditure. Economy was apparently to be the method. But the deficit on last year's budget, and the large amount of floating debt, were too serious to be dealt with by any other means than those now adopted. The depressed condition of many of the most important industries, and the state of the labouring population, made any considerable increase of taxation an impossibility to a weak Government, and to a Chamber elected by universal suffrage. The Ministry had, we expect to learn, little choice in the emergency. The new loan will clear off the floating debt, make up the deficiency of last year, and give the Finance Minister a fresh start. The loan will also be less expensive to the nation than carrying on unconsolidated debts, which is always a dear way of balancing budgets.

According to the Budget of 1885, the amount of Rentes was £786,241,803—or francs 19,656,045,076,—about two-thirds being in 3 per cent. stock and a little over six milliards and three quarters in new 4½ stock, which was converted in 1883 from 5 per cent.

Rentes. Besides these consolidated Rentes, there were other descriptions of debt, the capital of which has not, so far as we know, ever been stated. But it was estimated in 1885 that if the total liabilities of France were capitalized they would amount to something like a thousand millions sterling, or about £26.10s. per head of the population. Any deficit or unfunded debt incurred last year would add to the above sum, and the diminution in the principal items in the receipts in 1885, compared to the Budget estimates, points to a further increase in the public obligations which we hope will be fully provided for by the new loan. For many years the debt of France has been more and more held by the population. In 1850, the number of 'Rente' holders of the Consolidated Debt alone, numbered 846,000; in 1860, 1,073,300; in 1870, 1,254,000; in 1880, 4,000,000; and in 1883, nearly 4,100,000. There is besides a large amount of Savings Banks' funds invested in Rentes. For the sake of comparison we may say that the total debt of Great Britain at the end of the financial year 1885, was £741,330,654, or say £21 per head, while that of Germany was under 28 millions sterling at the beginning of April, 1884; against which there were over 35 millions sterling of invested funds of various kinds. That is, to say the German Empire has funds in hand instead of owing money.

ENGLISH CUSTOMS RETURNS.

THE Custom House Returns of the United Kingdom for 1885, exhibit a continuous and increasing deficit, month by month, in the exports of produce and manufactures. This was also the case in the previous year, as the following figures of the trade of the four quarters of the years will show:—

	1885 less than 1884.	1884 less than 1883.
January-March	£5,223,678	£625,250
April-June	5,999,407	720,482
July-September	5,057,781	1,350,256
October-December	3,712,969	4,078,243
	£19,993,835	£6,774,231

The total decrease in 1885 is startling enough, but some comfort may be derived from there being an evident improvement in the latter half of the year. This diminution in the value of the export trade is partly explained by the following table in which the quantities of articles which represent about half the value of the entire export trade, are contrasted with the prices of 1884:—

	Quantities.	Value.	1884, Prices.
Coals	21,000,000	£10,600,000	£11,000,000
Wool	23,000,000	800,000	1,100,000
Cotton	246,000,000	11,900,000	12,500,000
Cotton piece goods	4,375,000,000	48,300,000	51,200,000
Jute yarn	31,000,000	300,000	400,000
Jute piece goods	215,000,000	1,900,000	2,200,000
Linon yarn	17,000,000	1,000,000	900,000
Linon piece goods	150,000,000	4,000,000	4,200,000
Woollen yarn	43,000,000	4,400,000	4,300,000
Woollen fabrics	87,000,000	8,900,000	8,900,000
Worsted fabrics	128,000,000	6,600,000	6,300,000
Iron	3,000,000	21,700,000	22,500,000
Total		£120,500,000	£125,800,000

One quarter of the loss in value is thus accounted for, and supposing the

other exports not enumerated above have declined in value to the same extent, a moiety of the decrease on the year is explained. There must have been a serious falling off in quantities to account for the decline of the other ten millions sterling.

The imports also decreased, but they exhibit more favourable figures than the exports, as the following table proves:—

	1885 less than 1884.	1884 less than 1883.
January-March	£9,064,773	£859,699
April-June	2,531,033	19,064,000
July-September	5,246,623	6,241,264
October-December	4,159,872	11,383,828
	£15,940,235	£35,829,393
Deduct re-exports	5,038,813	2,695,256
	£10,901,422	£33,134,137

The total value of trade during the two years has been:—

	1885.	1884.
Total imports	£373,834,314	£389,774,549
Total exports	270,934,935	295,967,583
	£644,769,249	£685,742,132

less last year by 40,972,883l.

This decrease in values is mainly owing to the short receipts of cotton, silk and wool, which among them represent a total falling off of twelve millions sterling. The *Shipping Gazette*, from which we have taken the above tables, remarks that none of these articles manifest a decrease in price at all analogous to that which has been sustained in the articles manufactured from them for export. The *Economist* says that the total diminution in English sales was 20 millions sterling value, of which 11 millions arose from the quantities being smaller. Of this 20 millions fully 8½ millions loss was sustained in textile manufactures and about 8½ millions in mineral productions; and that of the loss in 1885, 5½ millions was in price and 3 millions in quantity. In 1884 prices lost 4½ millions but quantity recovered 2 millions. And again, that, of the loss of nearly 9 millions on mineral exports, 5 millions arose from price and 4 millions from quantity. During 1885 English exports fell off 5 millions sterling and imports 16 millions, leaving net purchases less by 11 millions, this being the difference between 19 millions, saved to England by lower prices, and 8 millions, the equivalent of the goods imported and retained for home use. England according to the *Economist*, saved in 1885 less than one-third of what she did in the previous year, and lost on the sales of last year two and a half times as much as in 1884.

The Revenue from Customs duties during the last three years has been:—1885, £20,113,533; 1884, £19,918,081; 1883, £19,706,380; that is after deducting drawbacks, &c., which amounted last year to £114,000 and to lesser amounts in the two preceding terms. To these collections Tea gave £4,561,395 in 1885, and from two to three hundred thousand pounds less than that sum in 1884 and 1883. The duty received from coffee remains nearly stationary, having been £208,000 in 1885 and

six thousand pounds less in 1883. The Customs revenue last year was made somewhat greater than in 1884 and 1883 by the large quantities of goods which were cleared from bond just before Mr. Gladstone's Chancellor of the Exchequer made his budget proposals, when, as Messrs. Ewart, Macaughy & Co. the eminent firm of London tea brokers say in their annual circular, the duty payments were enormous. This increase had been partly balanced by subsequent short clearances up to December, and would have no effect on the Customs Returns for the whole year. Noting the collections on the dutiable articles, with a view to forming an opinion on the effect of continued bad times on the habits of the people, we find a key to this information in this table of articles delivered from bond for consumption:—

	1885.	1884.
January to December.		
Chicory (cwt.)	99,286	93,006
Cocoa (lb.)	14,595,168	13,963,891
Coffee (cwt.)	293,306	294,788
Currents and raisins (cwt.)	1,329,290	1,408,479
Tea (lb.)	182,455,982	175,097,983
Tobacco (lb.)	53,055,984	52,308,722
Spirits (galls.)	7,935,085	8,085,705
Wines (galls.)	13,845,748	14,075,625

From this it will be seen that the use of comparatively harmless beverages is increasing, and this would indicate that people having had less money to spend, have therefore been more moral, or at all events more careful, than in prosperous times. Tobacco has been in increased use, but not sufficiently so to keep pace with the greater supply, which was over £1,100,000 value, more than in 1884. On the whole the figures for the last months of the year bear out what we said before, that some improvement had taken place in trade at home; and the turning point was reached late in autumn. The quantities of goods in bond on 31st December were favourable in most important articles, as these figures show:—

	1885.	1884.
Chicory (cwt.)	20,734	20,401
Cocoa (lb.)	5,917,134	6,760,872
Coffee (cwt.)	340,889	422,567
Currents and raisins (cwt.)	579,539	538,335
Tea (lb.)	104,054,691	118,901,663
Tobacco (lb.)	90,767,577	78,056,804
Spirits (galls.)	14,465,635	13,786,512
Wine (galls.)	7,603,042	8,256,845

THE FRENCH-MAIL PAPERS.

THE articles on Home politics in the *Saturday* and *Spectator* are chiefly on the debate on the Address; and the speaking in the House of Lords on that occasion did not satisfy either paper. Mr. Gladstone, and what he would do with the Irish question, was in every body's mind at the time, and how could the Peers, or any other body of men, be equal to an occasion, when his mind had not been disclosed? The political leading articles this week are rather dull and profitless reading, but the *Saturday* has a good one on Mormonism in which the leaning towards those parts of the American Constitution that supply checks on democracy which is apparent in the thoughts of many Conservatives now-a-days, is very evident. 'The Eastern Question' begins by praise of Lord Salisbury's conduct of foreign affairs—which seems to be becoming an article of faith among indepen-

dent Liberals, for the *Pall Mall* grows quite enthusiastic in his honour, and the *Spectator* approves by its silence—and takes the anti-Greek side, as in former articles. Greece, it says, declines to disarm, and unofficially, if not officially, pleads that war may bring her defeat but will save her honour. 'One is inclined to remember the simple and famous words of William of Orange to Richard Hamilton at the Boyne. Your honour?' In connection with Greek affairs the *Pall Mall* publishes telegrams which were exchanged during the week between the Demarch, or Mayor, of Athens and Mr. Gladstone. The Demarch telegraphed that full of gratitude, etc., the people of Athens placed the Greek cause in Mr. Gladstone's hands (*remet entre vos mains la cause Hellénique*) to which Mr. Gladstone replied—after compliments—that he earnestly hoped that Greece would pause before placing herself on this occasion in conflict with the deliberate and united recommendation of the Great Powers. The *Pall Mall Budget* also contains a full description of the pecuniary position of Greece, which is headed 'Disarmament or Bankruptcy,' both of which are likely to happen. The *Spectator's* article on Port Hamilton, is mainly descriptive of the place and not novel; another on 'Workmen's Wages' is heavy and probably instructive, and there is another on the late French railway murder, which is good reading. The following extract is interesting:—

He, the victim, could hardly, from the position of his Department, have discovered a Secret Society, and his friends have no idea that his "removal" could be advantageous to any one, though the police are said to have a notion that some of his wife's family may, for pecuniary reasons, have desired his death. That is possible, but most unlikely; men hunting for family heritages rarely taking such risky steps. They poison, but do not use budgeon. There remains revenge, which, though an uncommon motive in England, where hatred stops short of murder, and men do not fight duels—that practice always helps to exaggerate the evil but instinctive notion that revenge may be a duty—is by no means so uncommon on the Continent. A considerable proportion of the murders reported thence are murders of revenge, and an active Prefect may have given, in the course of his business, the most deadly offence. We do not mean to criminals. Colonel Chester, too, after an experience of thirty years, declares, in his book on prisons, that convicts, unless perchance innocent, are rarely malignant against the agents of the law, whom they regard as men doing, and doing fairly, the business they live by, and whom they do not, therefore, expect to favour them. The murderer, moreover, in this case was no convict, but a rather impressive person of late middle age, who struck the porter who stopped him when he got out at Mantes on the wrong side of the carriage as quite above suspicion. The deadly offence given by the Prefect—who, it must be added, has little to do with criminals—was probably the dismissal, or report which had caused the dismissal, of some minor official. Such a dismissal in France is considered a deadly blow, destructive at once of character, income, and prospects.

The 'Hundred Best Books' discussion goes on in the *Pall Mall*; and wears. The *Saturday* is rich in papers on general subjects; that called 'By Thinking on the Sunny Helouan' is an admirable sketch of an Egyptian watering place. The description of the ancient ticket collector who required a minute to examine each ticket, of the double-horsed omnibus with its driver who goes to meet the train if he does not happen to have any better amusement, the familiar greeting at the Hotel by the click of the billiard balls, one maze of cracks, the room of an Egyptian Minister, which is pervaded by an echoing murmur of 'Excellency' that is caught up from lip to lip and never allowed to drop for a moment, the fresh and clear natural air, the atmosphere of repose and freedom, of distance from work and

wrong, are all pleasantly hit off. What could be better, or more characteristic of a sunny, sleepy, place than the inn-keeper who admits that a gate would be a useful addition to his premises, and, contemplating the gate posts reflectively, as if he expected the gate to grow, says, 'Well I've been thinking about it; but you see I've only been here three years, and I haven't had time yet. I suppose it will come some day.' And when a tree or two is recommended as a proper addition to a garden consisting of a desert and a heap of stones, answers—just as if he were a Minister at Peking, 'Ye-es; all in good time; I can't do everything with a rush though.' A new Bishop and Dean is on the recent appointments of Dr. Moorhouse to Manchester and Dr. Gott to be Dean of Winchester, and will interest churchmen. Of the choice of Dr. Moorhouse the *Saturday* approves, but has some sensible remarks on the translation of Colonial Bishops to English sees. There is much force in the tacit rebuke of these, it goes on, conveyed some years ago in a missionary sermon of the Dean of Llandaff: "O for a few graves of Colonial Bishops in their own diocese." The 'Minnow' is the hero of a paper entitled 'Small Fry,' in which its doings and habits are chronicled. Minnow is said to make an excellent fry when a sufficient quantity can be obtained, and is one of the greatest dandies the British rivers possess, especially when he goes a courting in the summer time. 'A Year's Agriculture' opens with the remark that the Annual Reports on farming published by the Privy Council are excellent antidotes to the croaking and despondent view that is so often taken of the position of agriculture. The paper is particularly interesting in what it says of the increase of orchards, fruit-grounds and market gardens. Ten years ago there were 160,000 acres of orchards and fruit-grounds, in 1886 there were under 193,000, an unaccountably slow rate of progress, but market gardens which occupied 38,000 acres in 1876 have increased to 54,000, and of this no less than 6,000 acres are credited to last year. Saintsbury's 'Dryden,' vols. XI and XII, is reviewed rather minutely, and on the whole favourably. The writer points out that Johnson's much quoted, 'Those who live to please must please to live,' seems to have formed a quasi-original in the lines which at first were part of the Epistle to Kneller:—

"Meantime, whilst just encouragement you want,
You only paint to live, not live to paint."

In the reviews we find the *Saturday* criticising at great length, and favourably, Whitworth's 'Anglo Indian Dictionary'; sarcastically, 'The Wit of Women' by Kate Sanborn, "a very serious person, who has set herself to demonstrate in downright earnest what needed no demonstration,"—that American ladies who have written verse have not been witty. The other books reviewed are faintly praised, except 'Circulating Capital: by an East Indian Merchant,' which is emphatically called earnestly dull, and a not very favourable specimen of laborious wrongheadedness in support of silver monetization. The *Spectator* reviews the translation of 'Amiel's Journal' and gives extracts from the work, which contains, it says, many flashes of brilliant fancy and brilliant criticisms on men and books. Another book reviewed in the *Spectator* is 'Quaint Sermons, by Samuel Rutherford,' a divine of the stormy period in Kirk and State in Scotland during the seventeenth century. The matter and manner of these sermons may be guessed from this:—

"Bind a ship to a rush-bush to hold her by! that is but a slim anchor; it cannot hold her when she begins to be moved. Even so to bid a distressed soul believe in the Kirk, or in the Pope's word, or lippen [trust to] a Service-book, it is worth nothing to it, especially to a soul under perplexity and

trouble, when many enemies are besetting it. And, you know, a worm is a beast that has as many enemies as any beast has, for when it is creeping on the ground it has as many enemies as there are feet going upon the ground, ready to tramp upon it, and to put out the guts of it."

But the book appears to afford the means of an interesting study of Scott's life in former days. The *Athenaeum* reviews Mr. Froude's *Oceana* very favourably, and all the notices of this book that we have seen praise it. The following extract shows the extraordinary progress in commercial matters which Sydney has made during the last fifty years.

"The tonnage of the vessels which now annually enter and leave the port of Sydney exceeds the tonnage of the Thames in the first year of our present queen."

And these few words, apropos of the favourite idea in Australia, that in addition to undertaking their own defence the colonies should make a contribution to England for the joint support of an imperial navy, are notable:—

"The cords that hold Oceana together may be light in appearance if they are woven of seaman's hemp, but no hemp is better spun than the Admiralty ropes with the red thread at their heart."

The next paper is an able review of Victor Hugo's character and work. It claims for Hugo that he is the greatest son of France, and says that "until critics shall have learnt the import of his relations to the shallow cynicism which began or rather revived with the Second Empire, and has not passed away with it, his value and meaning in the France of the nineteenth century will never be fully understood."

The article should be read. Its comparisons of the realism of Hugo and Zola, of the probability of two of Poe's and Bret Harte's stories and of the criminals in fiction are very clever. The novels that are praised this week are 'In a Grass Country,' and in a moderate fashion 'Dorothy Drake' and 'For Lilies,' by the *Saturday*, and 'Mitre Court' in the *Spectator*; the *Pall Mall* laughs at Onida's 'Othmar,' while the *Athenaeum* has more than a good word for 'A Fair Maid' a story of hop-picking in Kent, half praises 'In Shallow Waters,' calls 'Respice Finem' a fairly interesting tale, and 'Leaven of Malice' a book with Scotch local colouring laid on with a heavy hand. The Literary Notes are more numerous than they have been lately.—There is reason to hope that Mr. J. R. Lowell may visit London next summer.—Mr. Anstey, the author of 'Vice Versa,' is writing a tale in which an Indian idol plays a leading part. It is a story in one volume.—It is understood that in spite of having assumed the editorship of the *Daily News* Mr. Lucy will continue to contribute Toby's 'Essence of Parliament' to *Punch*. Mr. John Morley has, since Mr. Lucy's promotion, been writing leading articles in the *Daily News*.—'Love Letters by a Violinist,' a volume of poems issued some little time ago in London and attributed to the Duke of Edinburgh, turns out to be by Mr. Eric Mackay, who is about to publish in New York a second volume of his effusions.—Mrs. Tollemache, whose 'Spanish Towns and Spanish Pictures' was favourably received by the public a few years ago, has now a work in the press entitled 'The Spanish Mystics of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries.' This work is intended to appear in March next.—Mr. W. F. Skene is now engaged in revising his 'History of Celtic Scotland' for a new edition. The first volume, which has long been out of print, will be sent to press very shortly.—Mr. Frederic Harrison's new volume 'The Choice of Books, and other Literary Pieces' which we mentioned some months ago, consists of essays and lectures written at various times during the last twenty years, and dealing solely with books, art, and history. Other essays are on Mr. Froude's

life of Carlyle, on the life of George Eliot, on Bernard of Clairvaux, on historic London, and on the French Revolution.

REVIEW.

Lord Beaconsfield's Correspondence with his Sister, 1832-1852. London: John Murray, 1886.

THE success of the little volume of Home Letters by Lord Beaconsfield, recently published, has induced the noble author's brother, Mr. Ralph Disraeli, to give to the public a selection of Lord Beaconsfield's letters to his sister. They range in date from 1832 to 1852; that is, from before Mr. Disraeli's entry into Parliament to his assumption of the dignities of Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the House of Commons. They make a really charming volume: they shew us the very inside of the young politician, his ambition, his vanity, and at the same time his kindness and generosity. They are a fragment of autobiography which cannot be too highly valued; and, as the editor points out, having been written without thought of publication to a sister who fully believed the writer's powers, the egotistical tone, and the conscious pride with which the writer recounts his successive steps upward on the ladder of fame can only elicit a smile of sympathy, without a tinge of satire. From the very first they are the letters of a man who believes in himself, and is determined to make the world believe in him; and there is neither a shred of reticence nor a morsel of verbiage in them. The actor exposes in them the whole paraphernalia of his craft; his indignant attacks on his enemies have no real venom in them, they are merely designed to bring himself into notice; and he is as friendly with his victims the next day as if he had never made the attacks. Every kind word that is spoken of him by others is reported to his sister; and he hardly uses an unkind word himself, in these letters, even of his keenest rivals. The pages sparkle with witty sayings, as might be expected; but we have marked so many passages for quotation, that we must not prolong our exordium. In the second letter (1832) we find:—

"Charley Gore called upon me, and said that Lord John often asked how I was getting on at Wycombe. He fished as to whether I should support them. I answered, 'They had one claim upon my support; they needed it,' and no more."

In 1833, before he had been first elected to the House, he writes "Heard Macaulay's best speech, Sheil and Charles Grant, Macaulay admirable; but, between ourselves, I could floor them all. This *entre nous*; I was never more confident of anything than that I could carry anything before me in that House. The time will come."

This was the prediction of the man of 28; it is the stuff out of which Prime Ministers are made. The energy with which he repelled attacks on himself in the public prints is well known, and he explains his reasons to his sister: "The only way to secure future ease is to take up a proper position early in life, and show that you will not be insulted with impunity."

At the age of 34, Disraeli married the widow of his former colleague at Maidstone, Mr. Wyndham Lewis, with whom he had long been intimate, the lady being several years older than himself; and to judge by the following piece of cynicism, written in 1833, he must have had a disappointment in early life; it is an interesting passage:—

"As for love, all my friends who married for love and beauty either beat their wives or live apart from them. This is literally the case. I may commit many follies in life, but I never intend to marry for 'love,' which I am sure is a guarantee of infelicity."

The next year he writes in a vein of charming egotism:—

"I have had great success in society this year. I am as popular with the dandies as I was hated by the second-rate men. I make my way easily in the highest set, where there is no envy, malice, etc." (!), "and where they like to admire and be amused."

Here the actor owns that he is cultivated for his acting.

The way in which he hints to his sister, without actually disclosing, his authorship of that torrent of calculated venom, the "Letters of Rannymede," is very clever:—"The 'Letters of Rannymede' are the only things talked of in London, especially the latter ones. The author is unknown, and will probably so remain. One or two papers have foolishly ascribed them to me. There is certainly some imitation of my style, and the writer is familiar with my works."

Here are two good repartees: the point of the latter lies in the fact that Fraser had recently been horsewhipped:—

"The Spaniards," says Trelawny, 'are in advance of all countries; they have got their constitution of 1812!' Says James Smith, 'I wish I had got mine.' Some one said that 'after all, Fraser's is the cream of magazines.' 'Whipped cream, I suppose,' said another.

Our author writes to his sister a full account of his maiden speech in the House of Commons, but it is too long to quote. The speaker was howled down by a compact body of Radicals and Repealers, and the popular voice pronounced the debut a failure; but the best judges, Peel included, insisted that it was just the reverse. He says of it himself:—

"I fought all with undaunted pluck and unflinching temper, made occasionally good isolated hits when there was silence, and finished with spirit when I found a formal display was ineffectual."

And he was very right in surmising that it might be "auspicious of ultimate triumph." "Next to undoubted success," he says, "the best thing is to make a great noise, and the articles that are daily written to announce my failure only prove that I have not failed."

The following notice of the Duke of Ossuna is very good:—

"He is a great dandy and looks like Philip II, but though the only living descendant of the Borgias, he has the reputation of being very amiable. When he was last at Paris, he attended a representation of Victor Hugo's 'Lucrezia Borgia.' She says in one of the scenes, 'great crimes are in our blood.' All his friends looked at him with an expression of fear; 'but the blood has degenerated,' he said, 'for I have committed only weaknesses.'"

Here is a pen-portrait of Daniel Webster, whom Lord Palmerston refused to meet because he thought he was the author of the d-d dictionary:—

"I dined with Lyndhurst yesterday to meet Webster, who is, I believe, considered a very refined and spiritual Yankee, but seemed to me a complete Brother Jonathan—a remarkable twang, as 'tyrannical' and all that; he also goes to the *levée*. A fine brow, lofty, broad, and beetled deep set eyes, and swarthy complexion. . . . A good story and true. Brougham asked Webster verbally to dine with him, and sent him a card the next day headed 'To remind.' Webster immediately answered by another card headed 'To acknowledge'—very American don't you think?"

In Sir Rowland Hill's life the difficulty that that innovator had to get Colonel Maberly, the Secretary of the Post-office, to accept the penny post system is fully set forth. Even a mind so acute as Disraeli's misdoubted the success of the scheme:—

"The deficit in the Post-office in London this morning (i. e. London alone) was £800. The government are chagrined; but

vaguely told a friend of mine that though the penny post was certain to fail they must go on, that the existence of the Government depended on it."

Here is a witticism from Theodore Hook at a dinner-party, after the ladies had left the table:—

"At last a pompous butler flounced in to announce 'Coffee' (Mrs. Twiss having an evening party, and being in despair at our delay). 'Sir,' said Theodore, staring the astonished butler out of countenance, 'My name is Tea Hook.'"

There is an amusing account, in 1840, of what was to have been a great county ball in Buckingham, but which turned out "a failure, for a party of visitors with the Queen Dowager and the Archbishop of Canterbury for principal guests was certainly not very promising," and there were "so many priests that it had the character of the Archbishop's *levée*." A little farther on is an account of a fiasco made in the House by so witty and accomplished a speaker as Bernal Osborne. He seems to have temporarily forgotten the Parliamentary rule to address the Speaker:—

"After the first minute he commenced, 'Gentlemen,' as if on the hustings—cries of order. 'Well, I suppose you are gentlemen'—cries of disgust. After this he five times made the same blunder, in fact lost his head."

Disraeli's love for his father crops up often and very pleasantly in these letters. Here is an instance:—

"Be very particular and minute in your information about my father's eyes. Scarcely a day passes without some enquiry being made after him here, especially by the *hommes de lettres*. His works are universally known here, and Buchon, Sie. Beuve, Bertin de Vaux, etc., are familiar with every page he has written."

Gladstone is often mentioned in these letters, and always kindly, except in one instance, which we quote, because it shows a very unusual absence of prophetic power:—

"Gladstone's address was involved and ineffective. He may have an *avenir*, but I hardly think it."

We must find room for an extract showing how much even so cool a head as Disraeli's was affected by the popular upheaval in '48:—

"The mob are in possession of Vienna, and Metternich, they say, almost as badly off as Louis Philippe. Guizot called on me on Saturday, and I was fortunately at home. He is unchanged, and has taken a house in Pelham Terrace, Brompton, at £20 per annum. The last time I saw him he was starved, ribboned, and golden-fleeced, and surrounded by ambassadors and grand personages! Affairs are very bad, but in my opinion will be much worse. All one can hope for now is to put one's house in order during the temporary lull—if there be one. It seems to me impossible for the Rothschilds even to stand the storm. They must lose everything everywhere except here. Austria has tumbled to pieces, Naples has lost Sicily, and France must be bankrupt, and these are their three principal debtors. They will also confiscate the Great Northern Railroad of France for certain, the workmen having announced that they will have one franc a day increase of wages, and half the profit of the line!—"

The struggle for the leadership of the Conservatives in the House of Commons in 1846 is graphically told. Disraeli was successful, but it was by no means a foregone conclusion. "They say Peel will never get over my appointment." Peel did not, like Sir Stafford Northcote, take refuge in the Lords. It is news to read that in 1849 the present Earl of Derby was a very interesting young man and pleasant companion. And it is characteristic to find our author, who afterwards became such a pillar of the Church, writing to his sister, "I think I shall write to Soapy Sam and ask him to come to Hughenden. It is but

decent, particularly as we are a sort of allies." At the Academy dinner in 1850, he is placed between Gladstone and Sidney Herbert, and he finds Gladstone "particularly agreeable." Here is a witty remark:—

"Lady Blandford, next whom I sat the other day at dinner, told me she had heard that 'Sin and Sorrow' was the joint production of George Smythe and Lady Sligo. I think if I saw it I should find him out. I suppose he supplied the sin, and his sister the rest"

The Editor has made a slip in letting out how politicians get their information, in the following paragraph on the death of the Danish Minister:—

"I am much shocked by the death of Reventlow. He was one of the best hearted and most genial beings I ever knew, and clever too; and, independent of all this, was my secret agent in the Diplomatic Corps, and I always found him faithful and accurate. It is a great loss to me in every sense."

We have only picked a few choice bits out of a book in which there is not a dull page; and we conclude with a condensed estimate of the Prince Consort. Disraeli was nothing if not a courtier:—

"On Sunday I was two hours with the Prince—a very gracious and interesting audience. He has great abilities and wonderful knowledge, I think the best educated man I ever met; most completely trained, and not over-educated for his intellect, which is energetic and lively.—Adieu."

Outports.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Our Nirvana is at an end; gross material concerns break up the dream of a winter spent in contemplation. And with the opening of the river the annual exodus takes place, which is rather more important than usual this year. The Consul-General of France, M. Dillon, with his family, who only came from Melbourne last fall, leave for Hué, where M. Dillon is appointed Deputy to M. Paul Bert. M. and Madame Dillon are old residents in Tientsin and have always been extremely popular with the foreign community, and the ability with which M. Dillon discharged his duties as Consul is quite exceptional. We regret his departure as that of an old friend.

The German Consul Mr. Peildram also leaves this place, on promotion, to Canton, where it cannot be doubted that his genial urbanity and eminent social qualities will make him a welcome acquisition. He carries with him the regrets of all our community.

The Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Mr. R. M. Hobson, with his family, goes home on a well earned holiday. Mr. Hobson will leave a gap which it will be scarcely possible to fill. His self-denying labours in the cause of temperance and other forms of virtue both among natives and foreigners have not passed unnoticed, and will not go unrewarded. His departure will be regretted by a large circle of people, who are not likely to forget his labours in the cause of humanity.

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Lees also leave us for a visit to England, carrying with them the sympathy and best wishes of all classes. Mr. Lees is one of the most indefatigable workers in the missionary field and has been a tower of strength to the L.M.S. Mrs. Lees is beloved of all who come near her. They are among the oldest foreign residents of Tientsin, having settled here in 1861.

The gunboats which have wintered here have left or are leaving. The English *Zephyr* is the first. She broke ground on the 9th and was taken out in seamanlike fashion by Lieut. Jones, who is equally at home on the bridge of a gunboat, on the

boards of a theatre, on a cricket field, or a tennis-lawn, and who does everything well. From Commander Hope, to the man who did such excellent service in sharpening skates, the officers and crew of this vessel have made themselves agreeable here, and Lieutenants Peyton and Jones have in many ways not necessary to detail contributed substantially to our enjoyment of the past winter.

The next vessel to leave is the U.S.S. *Monocacy*, whose departure is to be somewhat accelerated by the threatening attitude of Viceroy Chang at Canton. The officers of this ship, and there are many of them, are all jolly good fellows, a proposition which cannot be denied, and the men have been a silver mine to the owners of bunder ponies, for having much money to spend they spent it freely, and galloping about on ponies is their highest form of enjoyment. The band of the *Monocacy* has been a godsend, and came providentially to fill the place of the Viceroy's band which was dispersed. It has been kept in full blast all the winter, playing at balls, skating rinks, theatres and what not, in the most obliging manner. The officers of the *Monocacy* have taken their full share of the labour of love in catering for the public amusement during the winter.

The last to leave will be the French gunboat *Sagittaire*, a splendid vessel powerfully armed, could make matchwork of both *Monocacy* and *Zephyr*, and half a dozen like them, in three minutes and a half. Captain Kraus and all the officers are much liked and have made themselves pleasant all round. The blue-jackets have given several dramatic entertainments which were a perfect success. If the subjects of the pieces were sometimes of greater breadth than we are accustomed to in Sunday schools, they fall far short of the recent attainments of the popular and semi-religious press in England. The French understand these things, which to speak candidly can hardly be said for the sailors of other nations, and their performances were greatly enjoyed by appreciative audiences whose mastery of the French language left something to be desired.

It is however more lively to welcome the coming, than to speed the parting guest; and as the first steamers of the season were known to be bringing many distinguished visitors, expectation has been highly excited by Reuter's telegrams and articles in all the newspapers about the great German Syndicate which is bringing out thirty-five million pounds to lay at the feet of the Chinese. Much ingenious speculation has been wasted in trying to fathom why the amount was fixed precisely at thirty-five millions. Is that the measure of the supply, or the demand? Anyhow it is a large sum. And we have been for weeks past on the tenter-hooks of curiosity to see the bearers of this magnificent tribute to China. When it was known that great personages were at the Bar, sleep refused to visit our eyes, and early in the morning all the able-bodied members of the community turned out on the Bund to see them land. The first batch of passengers arrived from Taku in a tug about 10 a.m. on the 9th. A banker from Shanghai, and Judge Deunay, welcome as they would have been under other circumstances, were hardly enough to compensate for the disappointment felt when it was discovered the Syndicate had been left behind in another steamer. We are curious to know how the three, if they are ordinary sized men, have managed to stow away 35 millions of money, that is 11½ millions to each man.

It promises to be a lively season for hotel keepers and others who prey upon birds of passage. All the sleeping accommodation in the place is bespoke until there is not room left to swing the proverbial cat.

The first steamer at the bar was the *Kowshing*, and the first at the Bund the *El Dorado*, both of the red funnelled species.

10th March.

(FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.)

An incident occurred to-day which is likely to put a severe strain on the constitution of the Settlement unless it is promptly dealt with by the high diplomatic authorities. It appears that it has been the practice for the Municipal Council, out of gratitude or courtesy—it is not important to distinguish between the two motives, both being honourable—to erect booths or huts on the Bund, for the accommodation of the crews of the various gunboats which winter in Tientsin. The gunboats are frozen in alongside the Bund, a gangway plank is provided for them by the Land-renters, and the aforesaid structure, which the sailors can wash or cook in, or turn to any other use, is erected at the place where the vessel lies. The other day it pleased the Council in the exercise of their executive authority to order the removal of one of these booths which had not been used since the winter before last. It appears that they asked nobody's leave before carrying out the destructive work, so that the demolition of the lath and plaster building came as a painful surprise to a Consul, who saw in the act of the Council a most determined insult to his flag. Why? Because eighteen months ago the shanty had been allotted to the crew of a gunboat bearing the same emblem of nationality, namely two coat-tails taintant. Moreover, the booth or hut contained national property, consisting of a marling-spike and a bale of ropeyarn, a set of skittles and a few unconsidered trifles of that nature. The Consul, it appears kept the key of these national treasures, but the possession of the key of a building which had been pulled down struck him as somewhat ludicrous, and it was natural that the discovery of his situation should generate much Consular caloric. It is a moot question by what authority the key ever came into the possession of the worthy official, or under what sanction the sailors' booth on a public road was converted into a Government Store. These, however, are points of law reserved, as the judges say. If the Consul's equanimity was upset by the outrage committed on his flag, the paralysis which seized the Municipal Councillors as their awful situation was unfolded to them passes description. The announcement was made to each of the members separately, by the Chancellor of the Consulate, who harangued the peccant Councillors in turn. When his volcano was exhausted he consoled them by telling them this was only preliminary, and that the real storm would overtake them in the form of a DESPATCH! You might have knocked these Councillors down with a feather when this terrible threat was launched at them. When THE DESPATCH actually came it met with the reception which a charge of dynamite sent by post might expect. None of the sage Councillors would touch it with a pitchfork; they grew pale at the mere sight of it, and passed it on from one to another until it came to the last man, who had just presence of mind enough to remember the absence of the body of their Chairman. On his Atlantean shoulders therefore they would on his return roll this, like all other local burdens, and there for the present it must be left. What the sequel will be is pure speculation. The matter cannot end there, that is clear; but if it prove too grave a question to be disposed of by the Ministers, bloodshed may still be prevented by a timely reference of the whole transaction to the Vatican. That on the whole would be the safest course for all concerned.

6th March.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

I am very glad to learn that the Viceroy and Governor are putting aside their differences, and returning to their former friend-

liness. This satisfactory state of things is no doubt due to other officials who have been doing their best to bring about a good understanding between the two magnates. Admiral Fang invited both the Viceroy and Governor to a dinner a few days ago, which was extended from the afternoon to the small hours of the next morning. To-day the Tao-tai, or Grain Commissioner, has had both the magnates under his hospitable roof. Tao-tai Si is an honest old member of the Han-lin Yüan, whom the high officials find it a pleasure to meet at all times, and his literary attainments give him a certain amount of influence with his superiors in office, which appears to have been used in a most discreet and benevolent manner, if it is true that the present reconciliation between the Viceroy and Governor is mainly due to his efforts and timely interference.

The study of English is a favourite theme with the local officials just now, and many of them are attempting to acquire some knowledge of the English language, though rather too old to do much of anything. Many of the younger officials who have learnt a little English, studied geography, and such other useful accomplishments, have been employed by the Viceroy in preference to others, who, though better Chinese scholars, were ignorant of anything foreign. The telegraph is no doubt doing a great deal in changing public opinion from the old fashioned grooves in which it has rolled for ages past. The railway is the next thing required. Schools for the study of various branches of foreign sciences are being established with a view of popularizing such useful subjects as surveying, mining and naval architecture as early as possible. Students are being called for officially, and offered various inducements to enter the school just opened. The Viceroy, who has so often been called the lazy Chang, has evidently been making better use of his time than most people believed, and his refusal to receive many people, who really had no important business to transact, was no doubt justifiable at least in many instances.

China's need of railways has been forcibly brought to the notice of many of the higher military officials who had anything to do with the late war. Troops called for by telegraph in a few minutes required months to put in an appearance on the field of battle, and many of them arrived just in time to be too late, as it were, to take any active duty against the enemy. Even now, close on a year after the war has ceased, officials from distant provinces are putting in an appearance in answer to calls made for their services during the war. Some of these late ones no doubt purposely delayed the time of their arrival so as to avoid being drawn into battle against the dreaded foreign foe. Still, it is but fair to say that many of them were anxious to arrive in time, so as to measure themselves in battle against the much hated and greatly despised foreigners, who have been described by many as outlandish thieves and barking curs, whom it was only necessary to kick, in order to get rid of them. Li Hung-chang's fellow Provincials pretended it was mere pastime for them to be destroying French devils.

People are just now exercising their minds, as to the probable results of the Anti-Chinese Riots in California. Should all the Chinese in the United States decide to return to China all at once, the authorities might possibly find it no easy matter to deal with such a strong body of men, unaccustomed to the Chinese yoke for years. Many of these men might form themselves into secret societies, with a view to the expulsion of foreigners from China, in revenge for the wrongs inflicted on the Chinese in California. At any rate the subject is a serious one, and nearly concerns all foreigners, as well as well as Americans and Chinese. Should extensive rioting take place, the authorities might find it impossible to

cope successfully against the rioters, and the lives and property of foreigners might possibly be left to the tender mercies of a mob, unless foreigners were prepared to protect themselves against their assailants. There has been some talk of withdrawing the Chinese troops that have been stationed at Sha-meen, ever since the last riot—rather too early yet, considering that some of the foreign hongs destroyed on that occasion have not been rebuilt. The "Concordia Hall" is still in ruins, and is not likely to be restored just at present. It would be a great pity therefore to remove the garrison from Sha-meen, as long as things remain so unsettled as they are. The late riot at Fat Shan has not tended to increase our confidence in the good behaviour of the natives towards us. We are so few that fear of an awful retribution reaching them is the only restraint that can be said to keep the natives from exterminating us. Many of them are undoubtedly disposed to hold us guilty of all their sorrows, at home and abroad, and a strong anti-foreign feeling undoubtedly prevails in many parts of this Province, despite the benevolent efforts made by foreigners to alleviate the suffering of the people who were rendered homeless by the inundations in this quarter last year. Piracy and smuggling flourish afloat to an alarming extent, and the efforts of the Local Government steam fleets to subdue such dangerous elements have proved unavailing. Robbery with violence is also quite common ashore, and things generally are anything but reassuring.

6th March.

COREA.

CHINESE SMUGGLING AND RIOTING AT CHEMULPO.

News was received by the s.s. *Mino Maru*, on Saturday (6th inst.), to the effect that considerable excitement was created in Jenchuan, Corea, on the 25th and 26th of January, by the action of a party of Chinese smugglers, which, from what we can gather, narrowly escaped leading to serious trouble. During the day of the 25th, information was laid with the Customs authorities, that an attempt was to be made that night to smuggle some six or eight piculs of red ginseng on board the Chinese gunboat *Chin hae*, in consequence of which nearly all the Customs staff were kept on duty to watch. They had not long to wait; for shortly after 6 o'clock one of the Europeans was attacked suddenly by eight or ten Chinese, at whose hands he received considerable rough treatment, and would probably have been strangled, had not timely assistance arrived. One of the assailants was, we are glad to hear, captured there and then. Shortly afterwards, a mob of about thirty Chinese broke into the Custom House, and destroyed the furniture, broke the windows, etc. Order was eventually restored, by the arrival of a guard from one of the Chinese men-of-war, which remained all night, and was relieved the following morning. However, in spite of the guard of marines being on shore, the mob proceeded about 11 a.m. on the 26th to a new watch house on the jetty, which they completely destroyed. They afterwards proceeded to the Custom House, and endeavoured to seize one of the native watchmen, upon which the officer in charge of the guard ordered them to retire. As they refused to do so, preparations were made to fire upon them, and but for the intercession of Mr. Stripling, the Commissioner of Customs, some of the rowdies would undoubtedly have met their fate by quitting this world at a short notice in answer to a leaden message. Shortly after this, the mob moved on, and, beyond compelling the Cantonese storekeepers who deal with foreigners, and Harry's Hotel, to close their premises for

the day, no further trouble was experienced. By this time the naval force on shore had been augmented by a party of marines from H.M.S. *Swift*, landed at the request of Mr. Consul Parker, which movement probably had something to do with causing the mob to discontinue their rioting. On the 27th the whole circumstances were duly reported to the Chinese Minister, Yuen, who, it is believed, hesitated to punish the culprits, whereupon Mr. Merrill telegraphed to Li Hun-chung, and ten of the ring-leaders were eventually arrested and sent to Chiefoo. The rioting on the 26th is generally believed to have been in a great measure due to a proclamation issued by the Chinese Consul at Chemulpo, with reference to the capture of one of the smugglers on the previous night, for which it is very probable he will be recalled and disgraced. It is well known by every one in Corea that nearly all the Chinese gunboats make a practice of carrying cargo and passengers to and from Corea, to the great detriment of legitimate trade, and loss to the revenue of Corea. We believe something will now be done in the matter. It is a question in which not only China and Corea are interested, but all nationalities, and it is hoped that combined action will result in Chinese gunboats being restricted to their legitimate duties. —*Nagasaki Rising Sun*.

JAPAN NOTES.

From Yokohama Exchanges.

Mr. Wm. H. Parker has been appointed United States Representative in Corea.

A brick factory, capable of turning out 15,000 bricks per diem, has just been completed at Sakai.

A commissioner appointed by the German Government to report on the forests of Japan and America has arrived in Japan.

Viscount Shiogawa, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, to Germany, will leave Japan on the 12th of next month.

The Marquis Tokudaiji, Lord Chamberlain, has reported to the President of the Grant Monument Committee in New York, that His Majesty the Emperor of Japan has expressed his intention of contributing \$500 to the fund for the erection of the monument, as a token of respect for the memory of the late President of the United States.

The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce has voted in favour of the establishment of a rice exchange in the town, in reply to the authorities of Kanagawa Prefecture, who had made enquiries as to the advisability or otherwise of establishing such an institution.

H. E. General Count Yamagata, attended by a numerous suite, left Yokohama yesterday in the *Nagato Maru* for the Riukiu Islands. His Excellency's trip is regarded with much interest, being the first visit paid to the Okinawa Prefecture by an official of such importance.

On the 15th ultimo about forty travellers were killed by an avalanche while passing through the Tochigi mountain path in Shiga Prefecture. Snow falls to the depth of fifteen feet on an average on the mountains, and the path, walled in by precipitous hills, has been the scene of frequent casualties to travellers. —*Fiji Shimpō*.

Prince Louis Napoleon is expected in Japan at the end of this month.

The Metropolitan Police Authorities have given instructions to jinrikisha coolies, that they must have a fixed place in which to stop with their vehicles, and that they must not follow people in the streets.

(This was once tried in Shanghai, and various walls had red marks painted on them to indicate the 'stands'; but it was a failure. —*Ed. D. News*.)

All the officials of the Yamaguchi Kencho have been compelled to wear clothing of foreign pattern since the 28th ultimo.

The rabbit mania has broken out again. Rabbits with white faces spotted black, and with three distinct colours along the back, are selling at fifty to one hundred yen. "Broer Rabbit" has very warm admirers in Japan.

Foreigners trading in Japan will receive with much satisfaction the news that an Insolvency Law (including, no doubt, a Law of Bankruptcy) is to be promulgated in February next, and will come into force in July, Insolvency Courts being established throughout the country. This is an important step along the path of improvement, for hitherto the law, or want of law, on this subject in Japan has been little short of scandalous. Contracts are rescinded and enforced by Japanese Courts, but this was of little use while the defaulter was able to defeat the ends of justice by a bogus transfer of all his property, save a few mats, a chest of drawers, and some clothing, and declaring himself a bankrupt. The creditor (if a foreigner) after a considerable delay, in such cases, received a letter through his Consul, requesting him to appear at such a day and hour at the Japanese Court to receive a few dollars, being his dividend on a debt possibly of many thousands. An effective bankruptcy law, properly worked, as we have no doubt this will be, will prove an incalculable boon to trade. A restriction on frivolous appeals is another reform that will probably come one of these days, and be appreciated by all honest merchants, Japanese and foreign. An abuse is, fortunately, never safe in Young Japan; the reform may appear a long time coming, but, sooner or later, it does come.

It is now known, by the best of all tests—practical experience,—that the Rokumeikan Club in Tokyo is, so far as securing what Count Inouye is credited with having had in view in originating it,—the friendly fusion of Japanese with foreigners—a comparative failure. The accommodation for the Club has cost a large sum of public money, of which foreigners principally reap the benefit. Owing to the difficulties of the language, officers' jealousy of the high salaries paid to foreigners, and wide differences of habit and thought, the obstacles to the realization of the excellent original idea of Count Inouye appear to be insurmountable. The failure of the experiment is regretted by all those who wish to see the relations of Japanese with foreigners improved, but which consummation now appears to be, in reality, more remote than before.

Peking Gazette.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

MEMORIAL TO THE TAO-TAI OF FORMOSA.

21st, 22nd December.

(Continued.)

The next charge is that Colonels Chang Fu-sheng and Cheng Chao-lien purchased their commands by making Liu Ao a present of a girl apiece; and that there was a rumour abroad that the Tao-tai had enticed the young daughter of Chiang Fu-sheng, an ex-sergeant in the Chia Yi battalion, into his Yamen and raped her, the girl's father being so overcome with shame and indignation that he died shortly after. Now Chang Fu-sheng and Chang Chao-lien, on being questioned on this subject, denied that they had made presents of girls, and a cross-examination of Colonel Hu Tê-hsing, who had originally laid the complaint, which he was willing to bear witness to, before Liu Ming-ch'uan, elicited the statement that he could not prove the facts, which he had only learned by hearsay. Chiang Fu-sheng's daughter, named Yi mei, was called, and deposed that after her father's dismissal from his post, he lived in great straits in T'aiwan. Liu

Ao pitied him because he was a fellow villager, and gave him official employment on three occasions. He did in September, 1884. In February, 1882, she being then fourteen years old, Liu Ao employed her to wait on the ladies of his household, and afterwards seduced her. She is now Lieutenant Li T'ung-mei's concubine. Liu Ao was subjected to a searching examination, and declared that he redeemed the girl, who had been mortgaged to a private family, where she did servant's work, and allowed her to live about ten days in his own house, when he sent her home. It was not the case that he had seduced her.

The Memorialists have to observe that Chiang Yi-mei was fourteen years old at the time of the alleged rape, and was therefore in the eye of the law no longer of a tender age. As her father did not die till more than two years afterwards, and was employed by Liu Ao on several occasions during that time, it is hard to believe that he died of an illness brought on by shame and anger. As for seduction, it is a crime which, being committed in secret, is difficult to prove. This whole count may therefore be dismissed.

The next count is that when Liu Chin-nan, Liu Ao's second son, went to Hunan to enlist recruits, a shipping agency hired a steamer for him to transport the men to Formosa, and fixed the charge per head at 8 or 9 dollars. Liu Ao however made out a return showing the charge per head to be 13 or 14 dollars, and also made excessive charges for rations, etc., the total amount of which he defrauded the Government on this occasion being over 10,000 taels.

On this charge the Memorialists have to remark that on their arrival at Shanghai they procured the ledger of the Shipping Agency, in which there was an entry to the effect that in the spring of 1884 the steamer *Ku Yu* was hired to Liu Taotai of Formosa for the transport of troops to that place, for 7,000 taels a month. After she had been running 20 days, she went aground in mid-channel, and the *Kuang Li* was substituted for her, at a charge of 280 taels per day; and was hired for 19 days. Payment *pro rata* was made for the *Ku Yu*, and the total received for the use of the two vessels was 11,539 Treasury taels.

Upon their arrival in Formosa, the Memorialists made a careful examination of Liu Chi-nan's returns of the number of recruits enlisted. They were divided into four battalions, and the cost of their transport across the channel was calculated at the rate of taels 95 per man, which gave a total for 2274 men of 21,603 Treasury taels, or 10,068 taels more than the amount entered on the books of the Shipping Agency. Kao Tê-g-yü, who commanded one of the four battalions, deposed on examination that when the recruits were raised last year, he only received 467 dollars, in copper money, for their support from Liu Chi-nan, who controlled all the expenditure connected with their equipment and transport, and after the arrival of the men in Formosa made out a statement of all expenses incurred on their behalf, which he caused the commanders of the four battalions to present in their joint names to Liu Ao, to be placed in the archives. This evidence substantially agrees with what Liu T'ai-ho, another commander of one of the four battalions, reported to Liu Ming-ch'uan.

Liu Ao was examined, and stated that it was perfectly true that a surcharge had been made, and that it had been done by his order, to enable him to make good a deficit in some of his other accounts.

The next count is that whereas formerly the expenditure incurred on the Kelung Coal Mines was 4 or 5 thousand taels, it increased under Liu Ao at first to 6,000, and afterwards to 8,000 taels; that the money which the coal was sold for, was all paid into the Tao-tai's Yamen; and that Liu Ao, considering the salaries of the for-

sign engineers too high, applied for permission to employ Chang Ch'uan-sheng, who had worked under foreign supervision, in their place, and associated with him certain officials to manage the business, the consequence being that the expenditure increased still more. According to the evidence of the managers, there are three qualities of coal; the first quality cost 24 dollars a hundred piculs, and was reserved for the Government dockyards. The price of the ordinary coal was 16 dollars, and was sold to foreign and native merchants. Coal dust was sold at 8 dollars. In a month, over 12,000 dollars' worth of coal might be sold. The managers also bought up the output of the private mines at the rate of 16 dollars per 100 piculs of first quality coal, and 13 dollars for second quality, which they retailed at the same price as their own coal; but for this the managers alone are responsible. And that the nature of Liu Ao's embezzlements in this Department cannot be discovered until his annual accounts have been procured and Yang Ch'ung-ch'uan and Cheng Ying-chieh summoned and interrogated.

The latter, who was Sub-Prefect of the Pescadores but has been dismissed from his post, has now been examined. He states that he managed the Coal Department from June, 1881, to February, 1884, when he handed over the management to Yang Ch'ung-ch'uan, an Expectant District Magistrate. Previous to July, 1882, in addition to the sums realized by the sale of the entire output, which were claimed by the Department of working expenses, he received a monthly subsidy from the Tao-tai of from 4,000 to 5,000 taels; but after that date the expenditure increased, owing to the output being larger, so that the monthly subsidy rose to 6,000 taels, which was taken either from the Lekin Department, the Kelung Salt Department, or the Tamsui Customs. The receipts for the sale of the coal were still devoted to the working expenses of the Department, and whenever they were sufficient to cover the whole expenditure, no subsidy would be accepted; this might happen in two or three months out of the year. Whenever it was necessary to buy machinery, etc., the cost had to be provided out of other funds, and was not included in the monthly subsidy. Previous to 1882 the method of management differed in no respect from that described above. In the summer and autumn, owing to the heat and prevalence of malaria, the number of hands employed on the two shafts of the mine was small, and the output diminished; in winter and spring there was less sickness, consequently the number of workmen and the output increased. Subsequently to 1882, the yearly total output of coal was about 90,000 to 100,000 piculs, the three qualities being in equal proportions to the whole. The price of 1st quality coal was 24 dollars per 100 piculs; that of 2nd quality, 15 dollars; and that of coal dust 5 dollars; but the monthly output could not all find an immediate sale, and there was consequently an overplus of each quality. The money realized by the sale of that portion which was disposed of was insufficient to cover the working expenses; this is the true reason why the mine had to be subsidised. If the surplus output were stacked for only a short time, the action of the rain and sun, by disintegrating the lumps, would transform much of the 1st quality coal into dust. Moreover, when coal contains a certain amount of sulphur in its composition, it often happens that it takes fire by spontaneous combustion if left heaped up for any length of time. Under these circumstances it is impossible for the output to realise the price which it should do, or for there to be no losses incurred on the unsold surplus.

The first quality coal from private mines began to be purchased by the Coal Depart-

Sold 9
Bought 8
Decrease 5

I inspected the cattle kept at the above named places on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of last week and found them all in good health and condition.

J. A. WOOD,
Asst. Insp. of Markets.

Submitted, J.H.

Markets.—The Inspector reports that during February the markets and butchers' shops were visited daily and always found well supplied with good and wholesome articles of food. Proclamations have, as usual, been obtained from the Mixed Court Magistrate, ordering the market to be closed for the sale of game and wild fowl on the 10th inst. The number of animals killed to supply the foreign market during the month has been: oxen 531, sheep 1,122, calves 97, pigs 54; and at the grease-shops for native use: oxen 8, water buffaloes 29, sheep 1 and ponies 6.

The Cattle in Pah-sien-jach, and the ponies at the native livery stables are free from any disease. 181 carriages have been licensed for March against 185 last month, and 140 for the same month last year.

Volunteers.—The following correspondence is ordered to be published:—

Shanghai, 1st March, 1886.

SIR,—I have the honour to request the Council to apply to the Director of the Kiangnan Arsenal for permission to use the Range there for Field gun practice on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th proximo.

I have further to ask that the chains on the posts of the grass plots on the Bund, running from the Road to the River between the Custom House and the Public Garden, be removed during the Volunteer training.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHAS. J. HOLLIDAY,
Major Commanding, S. F. C.

To R. F. THORBURN, Esq.,

Secretary, Municipal Council.

Shanghai, 1st March, 1886.

SIR,—I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to grant permission for the Shanghai Volunteer Artillery to use the Range at the Kiangnan Arsenal for Field gun practice, on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th instant.

Tendering you, in anticipation, the best thanks of the Council for this permission,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. WOOD,
Chairman.

To NEE TAY-JEN,

Principal Director,
Kiangnan Arsenal.

Kiangnan Arsenal, 2nd March, 1886.

SIR,—We have to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 1st inst. requesting the use of our Range for the Shanghai Volunteer Artillery.

Fearing that the presence of a European military force here may lead to awkward complications, we greatly regret that we cannot grant your request.

We have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

THE DIRECTORS.

To A. G. WOOD, Esq.

Decided to have the chains removed from the Bund foreshore, as requested, and to send Major Holliday a copy of the above letter.

Legal Adviser.—Decided to continue Mr. Robinson as the Council's Legal Adviser during their present term of office.

Nuisances.—The Chairman directs attention to the inconvenience caused by visitors to stores and private residences leaving their carriages standing at the door after they have alighted, thus preventing other carriages from approaching, and he suggests that instructions should be given to mafous that after their employers alight, they are to move on, so as to leave the entrance clear for later arrivals. Attention is also

directed to the breaking in of ponies in the Settlement, and the placing of garbage on the public roads after 9 a.m., which are prohibited by the Police regulations, and it is proposed to have a notice put in the papers warning residents that those infringing these regulations are liable to be arrested.

Decided to have this done, as suggested, and to have similar notices printed in Chinese, to be distributed amongst the Livery Stables, etc.

Stray Dogs.—The attention of the Police is to be called to the number of ownerless dogs straying about in Hongkew and on the Bund foreshore, and they are to be instructed to be more vigilant in capturing them.

The Meeting then adjourned.

THE PERAK TIN MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders in this Company was held on Friday, 12th March, 1886, at the Company's offices in Nanking Road. Mr. W. V. Drummond (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. E. G. Low and R. Francis (Directors), H. H. Joseph, R. M. Campbell and A. Thurburn, representing 839 shares.

The report and accounts were presented, as follows:—

REPORT.

This meeting is held at the present time in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company, and is also required by the Hongkong Ordinances under which the Company is registered.

The report which the Directors now lay before the shareholders includes the working of the Perak Tin Mining and Smelting Company up to the 31st December, 1885, when its affairs were taken over by this Company, the interests of the two Companies being identical.

At the Special General Meeting of the old Company, held on 26th March, 1885, recommendations for the future working of the Company's properties were laid before the shareholders and approved by them; these recommendations, which were carried into effect, were, it may be remembered, as follows:—

(1) Papan Block.—This block to be let out on Tribute to Chinese miners on the best terms obtainable and with the least possible delay.

(2) Chanduriong Block.—Work to be commenced on this block immediately by the opening of an excavation, 200×200 feet.

(3) Selama Block.—Work to be commenced here as soon as possible by the opening of an excavation in old worked ground, which will not be more than 5 feet in depth, for the purpose of ascertaining the position of the lode which Mr. Haughton states he is confident exists.

It is not necessary to follow the course of the work at the three places; it is sufficient to state that after allowing a reasonable time in which to test the new method of working at Papan, results still remained unsatisfactory; the opening at Chanduriong did not hold out any hopes of success being achieved; from Selama, where it had been impossible to get to work before July, no definite advices were received except that the first operations had failed to discover the lode.

This being the state of affairs in September, the Directors determined to send the Secretary to the Straits on a visit of inspection. The results of this visit are now given, together with some explanation of the reasons which influenced the Secretary in recommending the policy now being carried out.

At Chanduriong work has been discontinued and negotiations are going on for the sale of the land upon which operations were commenced, together with a few acres adjoining. It was evident that the money set aside for Chanduriong work was altogether insufficient to complete the excavation proposed, and moreover the results of numerous borings showed that the land was altogether too poor to offer any chance of success.

At Papan, at the time of the Secretary's visit, affairs were in a more hopeful position; a good

run of Tin had been uncovered, and the Tributers employing between 600 and 700 men, were in full work; it seemed probable that at any rate in the immediate future the place was likely to pay its expense. It would be advisable, the Secretary considered, to continue work at Papan, if possible, for some months more, as such a course would, from present appearances, produce something towards current expenses of the Company. At the same time the Manager agreed with the Secretary in the opinion that there was little prospect of the property ever returning dividends to the shareholders. At this time reports were received of the discovery of a lode at Selama, and the Manager and Secretary started off to visit the place, they being agreed that if on investigation the Selama lode offered good prospects, in it lay the one chance of any permanent good resulting from a continuance of the enterprise, and that should it be necessary to sell Papan in order to raise funds for further work at Selama, the negative advantages to be obtained by a continuance of work at the former place should be sacrificed to the possibilities of the latter.

After inspecting the work done at Selama, the Manager was fully satisfied as to the existence of the lode and describes it as consisting of sandstone, iron, quartz and tin oxide; he professes himself pleased with its appearance, states that the prospects in sight are encouraging, but that it will be necessary to open up the lode further before any detailed report can be given; this work of opening up he recommends being taken in hand with all speed; the cost of it he puts at \$3,000 to \$4,000, the time the work will occupy 4 or 5 months from its commencement. Mr. Hooper, the Company's employé to whom the credit of the discovery of the lode is due, is exceedingly sanguine, and he describes the Tin specimens as the richest he has ever seen.

The recommendation, then, which the Secretary made to the Board on his return to Shanghai was that seeing it was impossible to obtain funds for the Selama work without selling Papan, steps should be taken towards realising that property without delay; this recommendation the Directors adopted and news may now any day be expected that the sale has been made. As to the price which may be obtained for Papan, the Directors cannot speak with any confidence, but it may be safely said that it will be more than sufficient to provide for all the outstanding liabilities of the Company and for the cost of the prospecting work to be done at Selama. Pending sale of Papan nothing more has been done on the lode at Selama; the first funds received will be devoted to this work. It may be mentioned that the anticipations formed as to Papan paying expenses have been realised, and that it has paid its way for the three months, November to January. This, however, though satisfactory, does not alter the opinion that there is little prospect of the property producing sufficient Tin to pay all the expenses of the Company and dividends to the shareholders.

With a view to the possibility of having to sell Papan, the Secretary during his visit made all necessary arrangements with the Government, and obtained from them the right to sell the property together with the special privilege as to abatement of Royalty on Tin produced which attaches to the concession.

The first Directors of the company were Messrs. W. V. Drummond, E. G. Low and G. H. Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler retired on leaving Shanghai, and Mr. R. Francis was appointed in his place. Mr. Low now retires in accordance with clause 78 of the Articles of Association, but offers himself for reelection.

Accounts.—Appended is the statement of Liabilities and Assets as taken over from the Perak Tin Mining and Smelting Company on 31st December 1885, that being the date of the agreement between the old and new Companies. The Liabilities, "Due to Sundry Agencies" and "Due for Salaries" have since been liquidated by the proceeds of Tin sold and by the realisation of sundry minor assets.

The accounts of the old Company are also given. In "Working Account" the loss on "Tin Account 1884-85" arises in consequence of "Tin in Stock," in the last accounts submitted, having been treated as representing Tin wholly the property of the Company, whereas subsequent advices showed that this Tin belonged in part to Chinese Tributers.

The Auditor, Mr. C. D. Kerr, retires as required by the Articles of Association, but offers himself for re-election.
Shanghai, 1st March, 1886.

W. V. DRUMMOND,
Chairman.

CHAS. J. DUDGON,
Secretary.

THE PERAK TIN MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY,
LIMITED.
LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 1st JANUARY, 1886.

Dr.		Tls.
To Capital, 5,000 Shares at \$50, of which are allotted:		
4,977½ Shares at \$50 @ Ex. 72.8	181,174.94	
Due to Sundry Agencies	1,233.36	
Due for Salaries	1,033.34	
Due to Directors	295.38	
	183,727.02	
Cr.		Tls.
By Cash at Agra Bank	685.12	
Cash with Secretary	3.17	
Sundry Debtors	835.65	
Plant Account	27,296.94	
Furniture at Penang, Shanghai, Papan, &c.	2,231.80	
"Saratus" Mine	962.50	
Suspense Account	5.88	
Balance of Working Account of the Perak Tin Mining & Smelting Company, say:		
To 31st March, 1884	39,646.44	
14th Feb., 1885	57,158.07	
31st December, 1885	29,089.35	
Concession Purchase	25,348.59	
Liquidation Account	563.51	
	151,705.98	
	183,727.02	

Shanghai, 1st March, 1886.

W. V. DRUMMOND,
Chairman.

CHAS. J. DUDGON,
Secretary.

Audited and found correct,
C. D. KERR,
Auditor.

THE PERAK TIN MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY,
IN LIQUIDATION.
LIABILITIES AND ASSETS TO 31st DECEMBER, 1885.

Dr.		Tls.
To Capital, 5,000 Shares at \$50 of which are allotted:		
4,977½ Shares at \$50 @ Ex. 72.8	181,174.94	
Due to Sundry Agencies	1,233.36	
Due for Salaries	1,033.34	
Due to Directors	295.38	
	183,727.02	
Cr.		Tls.
By Cash at Agra Bank	685.12	
Cash with Secretary	3.17	
Sundry Debtors	835.65	
Plant Account	27,296.94	
Furniture at Penang, S'wai, Papan, &c.	2,231.80	
"Saratus" Mine	962.50	
Liquidation Account	563.51	
Concession Purchase	25,348.59	
Suspense Account	5.88	
Balance of Working Account to the 31st March, 1884	39,646.44	
Balance of Working Account to 14th Feb., 1885	57,158.07	
Balance of Working Account to 31st Dec., 1885, as below	29,089.35	
	183,727.02	

WORKING ACCOUNT TO 31st DECEMBER, 1885.

Dr.		Tls.
To Tin Account, 1885	2,540.56	
Interest Account	233.06	
Exchange Account	8.41	
Balance	29,089.35	
	31,871.38	
Cr.		Tls.
By General Charges Account:		
Shanghai Office	465.97	
Penang Agency	704.32	
Travelling expenses & Sundries	718.62	
Extraordinary expenses o/a Mr. T. J. Haughton	1,792.02	
	3,680.93	
Salaries Account	10,959.49	
Directors' and Auditor's Fees, less transfer fees collected	1,542.47	
Works, Papan	9,874.18	
" Chanduriong	2,508.26	
" Selama	944.78	
" Teluk Anson	476.40	
Tin Account, 1884-85	1,925.77	
	31,871.38	

E. G. Low,
Liquidator.

Shanghai, 1st March, 1886.

CHAS. J. DUDGON,
Secretary.

Audited and found correct,
C. D. KERR,
Auditor.

The CHAIRMAN said with the permission of the shareholders the report and accounts would be taken as read. The report was

somewhat lengthy, and contained within itself pretty nearly all the information that it was possible for the Directors to lay before the shareholders at present. They would not have called a meeting to-day if it had not been necessitated by the Hongkong Ordinances, under which the Company was registered. Under these Ordinances a meeting had to be called within a certain time after the registration of the Company; otherwise they would have waited until a little later when they would have more definite information to lay before the Shareholders. They would observe that there were two sets of accounts—one of the old Company, in liquidation, and one of the new Company. The two accounts were, however, identical, only that those of the new Company were more consolidated. The work that had been done, and that the Directors proposed should be done, was pretty well described in the report. The best that could be said of the work that had been done so far was that during the last three or four months of the working at Papan, which was the principal work, it had paid its way. During the last four years there had been a large number of companies formed for the working of tin in the Malay Peninsula, in Perak and Selangor—two in Shanghai, one in France, several in London and Singapore united, and many in Australia—he thought about a dozen, if not more, independent undertakings for the purpose of alluvial mining in these two States. So far as the Directors had been able to learn—and he believed they had as complete information on this subject as could be obtained—not one of these Companies had been able to show, up to the present time, a profitable result upon its working. He thought he might therefore say that the result of their experience was that alluvial mining in these states of the Malay Peninsula could not be conducted by European enterprise to a profitable issue. That seemed to be the inevitable conclusion from the experience of such a number of Companies who had extended their labours over several years. He was referring to alluvial mining, in which the ore was like a specimen they had before them—looking very like coarse gunpowder. That was the form of metal for which they—and the other companies also—had been mining during this period. They had, however, lately discovered on one of their blocks, known as the Selama block, what they believed to be a lode. They had had some specimens taken up by the men at work there, and some of these specimens were now on a table before the meeting, and they would be able to see at a glance what an entirely different character they bore from the alluvial ore. Up to the present time there had been no such thing as a lode discovered by anyone else in the whole of the Malay Peninsula; and the discovery—if it was a discovery—had created a considerable amount of interest there—both with the Government and with all interested in mining. Some of the specimens taken out had been sent to the best experts in London to be assayed, and the Directors hoped to have the results forwarded to them very shortly, but they had not received them yet. They were informed that the specimens were similar in character to a class of ore found in Cornwall, where, as he believed, there was no such thing as alluvial mining, all of it being lode mining. Of course the value of the lode had yet to be discovered—what percentage of tin it would yield, and to what length and depth the lode extended. The facts whether the lode was not worth working, or of what value it was had yet to be discovered. They had, however, come to the opinion that alluvial mining was not worth continuing, and they had determined to sell the Papan block and devote the whole of the proceeds to the development and improvement of the lode at Selama. The price they

would get for it was a matter of uncertainty; but although the property would only just pay expenses when worked by this Company, it was of considerable value to the Chinese, who, by their system of truck-working could make such a property as that pay a very considerable profit, when European proprietors one and all failed to do so. They had impressed upon their manager the necessity of selling it for the best price as speedily as possible; and in order to give the meeting the latest information he might tell them that they had only yesterday received a telegram from the manager as follows:—"Seventeen Thousand Dollars have been offered for the mine. Hope to do better by waiting." He might mention that they had already heard from the manager by letter that \$17,000 had been offered; and from the wording of the telegram they were uncertain whether that offer was still open or not. The Directors hoped it was, and if so they intended to instruct the manager to sell the property for that amount. The manager had been for three months under instructions to sell the property, and some time ago he got an offer for the amount mentioned in the telegram. There had been no better offer in the meantime, and the Directors did not think they ought to allow this one to pass; \$4,000 or say \$5,000 would be sufficient to prove the extent of the lode at Selama, and enable the shareholders to judge very clearly whether it was worth their while to go thoroughly into the development of the property or not. The sale of the Papan property would yield an amount amply sufficient for this purpose. That was the position in which they now stood. It would take three or four months to develop the lode sufficiently to place the matter beyond a doubt, the work consisting probably in simply exposing as much as possible of the rock, principally by means of blasting. Of course the sale of the Papan property would not yield sufficient capital to enable the mine to be put in full working at Selama; but that was a question for the future. At present all they would do was to prove whether the mine was of sufficient value to make it worth the while of the shareholders to work it. It was of course difficult to judge from surface indications; and until they spent money and got below, they could not judge with any certainty; Mr. Hooper had traced the lode as far as he could, and he had found indication of what was apparently the same line of rock no less than a mile distant from the spot from which the samples had been taken. That would of course show, if correct, that the lode ran for a very considerable distance close to the surface of the ground, making it very valuable. He did not know that there was any other information he could give; but before moving the adoption of the report and accounts he should be glad to answer any questions from shareholders.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN moved—

That the Report and Accounts, as presented, be passed.

Mr. Low seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Mr. FRANCIS moved—

That Mr. Low be re-elected a Director of this Company.

The motion was seconded by the Chairman and carried.

Mr. Low proposed—

That Mr. C. D. Kerr be re-elected Auditor of the Company for the ensuing year.

Mr. FRANCIS seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the following Special Resolution which was read by the Secretary:—

That the Articles of Association be amended as follows:

In Clause 10 for No. 37, 38, 39 read 38, 39, 40,	
" 73 " 73, 76 (a) (d) 77, 78, 80,	
" 81, 82 read 74, 77 (a)	
" 84 " (d) 78, 79, 81, 82, 83.	
" 72, (in two places) read 73.	
" 95 " 75 read 76.	
" 97 (d) " 12 " 13.	
" 97 (e) " 12 " 13.	
" 97 (f) " 12 " 13.	
" 99 " 10 " 11.	
" 106 " 25 " 26.	
" 128 " 12 " 13.	

The CHAIRMAN explained that the resolution was simply to make some corrections of a purely formal character in the Deed of Settlement. A new article had been added to the Deed of Settlement some months ago, and this necessitated some alterations in the numbering of certain clauses referred to in other clauses. This had been accidentally overlooked, and the object of this resolution was to rectify the error.

Mr. Low seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be necessary to confirm this resolution at a meeting to be held not less than fourteen days and not more than one month from this date.

The meeting then separated.

CHINA BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of the above Society was held on the 12th inst. Dr. Hirth, as President, occupied the Chair. The minutes of the last general meeting having been published in the *North-China Herald*, were taken as read.

The Chairman then announced the election of the following new members: Dr. J. Coelho de Carvalho, Consul-General for Portugal; Messrs. Carlo Gatti, Manager of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Silk Filature; F. Gebhardt, of Messrs. M. Schultz & Co.; Paul H. King, of the Kiukiang Customs; the Chev. E. M. de Lanciare, Italian Chargé d'Affaires; Robert Little, of Shanghai; George Möller-Beeck, of Yokohama, and Charles Rayner, of Shanghai. M. Henri Cordier, Professor of Geography at the Ecole des Langues Orientales in Paris, formerly a prominent member of the Society's Council, was elected a Corresponding member, and Father Angelo Zottoli, the celebrated author of the "*Cursus Literaturæ Sinicæ*" an Honorary Member is the place of Sir Walter Medhurst deceased. It was then decided to publish the Council's Report together with the Treasurer's and Curator's Report, and a List of Library donations prepared by the President, in lieu of a Librarian's Report, in the forthcoming fascicule of the Society's Journal. The election of a new Council was then proceeded with, which resulted as follows:—President, Dr. Hirth; Vice-Presidents, Dr. Jamieson and Mr. Kingsmill; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Mr. S. von Fries; Hon. Curator of Museum, Mr. H. E. Hobson; Hon. Librarian, Mr. H. Beck; Councilors, Messrs. Drew, Haas, Kraetzer, Nocentini and Playfair. A vote of thanks was then moved and carried for the officers of the last Council. The ordinary business of the meeting having been disposed of, the President announced to the members the substance of a circular concerning a fund of \$25,000 established "for the advancement and prosecution of scientific research in its broadest sense," by Mrs. Elisabeth Thompson. Intending applicants, the Chairman remarked, should consider that the competition must be large, since the same circular had probably been sent to all the scientific societies of the world.

The subject of the non-business part of the evening's assembly was the reading of a paper written by Mr. Geo. Phillips, H.B.M.'s Consul at Swatow, entitled "*The Seaports of India and Ceylon, described by Chinese Voyagers of the Fifteenth Century,*

together with an account of Chinese navigation."

Before reading the paper itself the Chairman made the following remarks:—

By way of introduction to Mr. Phillips' paper I wish to draw attention to a fact which is not generally known. China has had her age of discovery and conquest by naval strength as well as Europe. It was during the reign of the Emperor Yang-lo that the celebrated Chinese naval commander Chêng Ho (whose name, by the way, is not contained in Mayers' *Manual*) was sent out on an expedition to certain distant countries in the Southern Seas. Chêng Ho, as we learn from Mr. Groeneveldt's translation of a chapter in the "*History of the Ming Dynasty*," had come to Java under peaceful pretext; but his visit soon degenerated into an actual conquest. Java and other Malay countries sent tribute to China up to the middle of the 15th century, when these signs of dependence became less frequent. Chêng Ho, appears to have established Chinese rule not only in the Indian Archipelago, but also in the islands west of it as far as Ceylon, possibly even in the Maldivé Islands, whose history presents a blank between Ibn Battuta's visit in A.D. 1343 and the arrival of the Portuguese in A.D. 1506. Chêng Ho was a native of Yunnan and made his career as a eunuch at the court of the Emperor Chêng-tu, who reigned from A.D. 1403 to 1424. Imperial favour made him commander-in-chief over a body of 27,800 soldiers and 60 large fighting junks, sent out for the purpose of "making known the Emperor's orders in distant countries." When Chêng Ho returned, he brought with him one of the conquered kings, the Chief of Palembang, as prisoner to China. On a second expedition in A.D. 1408, a battle took place between the Chinese adventurers and the King of Ceylon, in which the latter was made prisoner with his suite and family, and brought to China. The King was sent back by the Chinese Emperor, but replaced on the throne by another member of the family. The kings of Ceylon after this continued to reign as vassals of the Emperor of China for nearly half a century. Full details regarding these important events are contained in Chinese records, and in Tennent's "*Ceylon*;" but the author of the last named work adds that these facts are "obscurely alluded to in some of the *Singhalese chronicles*" (Vol. I, p. 416), and that, "on their arrival in Ceylon early in the 16th century, the Portuguese found many evidences still existing of the intercourse and influence of the Chinese." Tradition was then so strongly in favour of this influence that Portuguese writers even attempted to explain the name *Singhalese* as having originated, like the race it described, "from the intermarriage of the Chinese with the Gallas, the caste who in great numbers still inhabit the country to the north of Point de Galle."

Mr. Phillips' paper, which will appear in full in the next fascicule of the Society's Journal now in the press, was accompanied by a Chinese chart, which contains the names of numerous localities situated on the coasts passed by those travellers. It was probably compiled from charts in the possession of Arab navigators, perhaps the same of which Marco Polo says that "he had related things that were pointed out to him on the maps of mariners of the Indies." In that chart the North Star is used to show the latitude of places, and in the course of his paper, Mr. Phillips shows that Chinese navigators of the middle ages must have used the same system of determining the latitude of a place as the Arabs, who measured the height of the North Star by means of an angle expressed in degrees called *isabdi*, the Chinese word *chih* (lit. a digit) corresponding to the Arab *isabdi*.

A discussion followed the reading of this most interesting paper, in which Messrs. Drew, von Fries and the Chairman took

part. One of the chief points raised in the discussion was the question of the value of the work of Dr. F. Porter Smith, entitled "*Vocabulary of Chinese Proper names*," and whether the time for a revised edition of that work with the latest geographical identifications of Chinese names had not arrived.

The annual Report of the Council was taken as read, and it will soon appear in the journal. We learn that it shows a healthy financial condition of the society, and that the roll of members is now about 180, which is probably the largest since the society was formed.

Amusements.

THE SOCIÉTÉ DRAMATIQUE FRANÇAISE AT THE LYCEUM.

When the French or the German Amateurs give a dramatic performance, they do it in a princely style which the A.D.C. can apparently hardly afford to imitate. Invitations are sent throughout Shanghai to all Society and its friends, and if there are any to whom the opportunity of seeing the representation is denied, it is not from want of good will on the part of the Societies. All the Shanghai world, resident and transient, was invited to the Lyceum Theatre on Tuesday night by the members of the French Dramatic Society, through their courteous Secretary, M. R. de Malherbe, the invitation itself bearing a very clever sketch of the stalls of a theatre, with the occupants, curiously enough, turning their backs upon the stage. This was perhaps a hint that the audience would be as well worth looking at as the actors; and certainly we have seldom seen a more crowded or more representative gathering of official and social Shanghai, than was collected on Tuesday night to witness the *répêce* of "*La Cagnotte*." It is nearly two years since almost the same company presented this amusing *comédie-vaudeville* by MM. Labiche and Delacour on the same boards, and so rapid are the changes among us, that it was a novelty to a large proportion of the spectators. The comfort of the Society's guests was most carefully studied. The street in front of the theatre was covered with a mat roof as a precaution against rain, and so full an argument was printed in English in the programmes, that the poorest French scholar could follow the action throughout, even if, as was hardly ever the case, it was not sufficiently revealed by the excellent play of the performers. The plot of the piece is of the simplest. Some of the residents of Ferté-sous-Jouarre, a village some two hours by rail from Paris, meet regularly to play cards at the house of M. Champbourey, a rich rentier. A certain portion of the losses is placed regularly in a pool, or *Cagnotte*, and at certain intervals the accumulated funds are spent in a common treat to the contributors. The first act occurs in M. Champbourey's drawing-room on the night of the opening of the *Cagnotte*. It is found to amount to 491 francs, 5 centimes, and 19 buttons; a vote is taken with all solemnity as to its employment. M. Cordenbois votes alone for a turkey stuffed with truffles. M. Colladan gives his unique vote for a visit to a neighbouring fair, where among other delights is to be seen a fat woman weighing 600 lbs. whom one is allowed to touch. The other three members vote for a visit to Paris, where M. Champbourey's sister, Léonida, has an appointment at a matrimonial agency, with a view to keeping which she persuades her brother that he ought to consult a Paris dentist about a raging tooth from which he is suffering. The other four acts pass in Paris. The party proceeds first to a restaurant, where they incur an intolerable bill, owing to the cyphers in the bill of fare being concealed by the edge

of the frame, which they refuse to pay, and are marched off to the police station. Here the variety of objects in their bags, really the commissions they have been executing at the Capital, convicts them of being pick-pockets, and they are locked up; but after they have made several fruitless efforts to escape, the carriage in which they are being conveyed to the depot gets involved in a Mardi Gras procession, and they manage to change places with four Pierrots, and reunite at the house of Cocarel, the marriage agent. Here they meet Sylvain, the son of M. Colladan, who has been sent to Paris to study agriculture, but who is confining his studies to the sowing of wild oats. Léonida and M. Cordenbois find that the matrimonial agent has destined them for each other, and M. Cordenbois is justly disgusted that he should have paid 125 francs for the privilege of seeing Léonida, when he has seen her every night for the last twenty years for nothing. Ultimately Léonida is presented to the very police magistrate who has just committed them to prison, and the whole party takes to flight once more. They sleep behind a hoarding round an unfinished building, their money and effects having been all detained at the police station, and from this dismal plight they are ultimately rescued by the opportune arrival of M. Renaudier, the notary of Ferté-sous-Jouarre, who had missed the train that brought them to Paris, and so escaped sharing in their adventures, and M. Renaudier is suitably rewarded by the hand of Miss Blanche Champbourey.

The play was produced under the direction of M. Citrouillard, who took the rôle of Champbourey, and it is therefore needless to say that it was an admirable performance. He was himself perfect as the pompons and loquacious old *rentier*, and the senile satisfaction with which he acknowledged "C'est moi!" when Renaudier told how his watch had been put into the umbrella of some old idiot, was a type of his general creation of the part. Colladan (M. Barbauchex), Cordenbois (M. Voicicki), and Baucantun (M. Mouche) were with the two ladies, Léonida (Mlle. Dumoulean) and Blanche (Mlle. Riffard), perfect embodiments of the well-known sketches in the *journal amusant* of *nos bons gens de province*. The make-up of the ladies was perhaps not quite so illusory as it sometimes is, but there was no fault in their acting. The eccentric Sylvain (M. Okelbett) was laughable in the extreme, and the appearance of Cocarel (M. Bilboquet) alone was a sufficient guarantee for the honour and responsibility of his matrimonial agency. His business with the enormous register of applicants with its creaking lock brought down the house. The two grooms de café (Mm. Kyéla and Mathusalem) were only too realistic, and Béchut (M. La Roussé) the Magistrate's Secretary, was the embodiment of bureaucratic arrogance. The smaller parts were played with equal perfection; and if some of the audience left before the curtain fell, it was because the five acts were long, and the theatre cold, not because the performance was tedious. On the whole the representation including the *mise-en-scène* was a brilliant success.

The music provided by the town-band, under the direction of M. Vêla, was excellent, and Shanghai has to thank the French amateurs for another very pleasant evening.

SHANGHAI ART SOCIETY.

The show of pictures at the Temperance Hall this month was smaller than ever, the entire exhibition comprising only a couple of dozen pictures and specimens of decorative art. On the whole, however, the exhibits were decidedly better than those of last month. There were fewer paintings which were absolutely bad, and although some of the most talented members of the Society were again unrepresented, one or two of the pictures shown may certainly

be ranked amongst the best work which has been executed by the painters from whose studios they come. The finest painting exhibited was a scene entitled "Part of the Alpine Range," in which water, foliage, rocks and sky were alike most skilfully rendered, the whole forming an exceedingly pretty picture in oils. A "Girl's head," copied from an engraving, also made a very pretty picture, while a portrait in black and white, enlarged from a photograph, labelled "Heather," was a very pleasing and artistic production, instinct with life. "A Bend in the Creek" was remarkable for the great attention to detail which the painter of this piece always bestows upon his work; but the general effect was unsatisfactory, being somewhat flat and not very natural. This painter has contributed, to the exhibitions of the Society some of the most charming little water-colours that have been shown; but this more ambitious attempt was not quite so successful as some of the artist's lighter sketches. A capital little piece of character-painting in oils was a scene entitled "Refreshing," representing a thirsty soul holding aloft a pot of water from the spout of which a thin stream is trickling into his mouth; but this, like most of the best pictures of the show, was a copy from the work of an artist of some note, the number of original paintings displayed being exceedingly few. Two other landscapes in oil possessing some merit were "Lake Scene" and "Evening, North Wales;" but in the former, though this was perhaps the better of the two, the undulating hills had too much the appearance of feather-stuffed pillows. Among the water-colour sketches the most striking and effective was a copy of an engraving which recently appeared in the *Graphic*, entitled "Bad News from the Front,"—a number of riderless chargers escaped from the battle-field. "On the Peiho," and "The Bluff, Chefoo," were two very pretty and truthful little sketches from nature; while in a view of the "Large Orphan," the well-known rocky island in the Yangtze, the artist has endeavoured to represent very faithfully the mud-coloured waters of the great river. One or two exceptionally effective specimens of decorative art were displayed at the exhibition, notably a decorated fire-screen, on the glass panel of which a large branch of the holy bamboo, with thick clusters of red berries, had been very cleverly painted, and a decorated table, over the black surface of which trailed a richly blossoming epiphyllum across a tree. Two plaques, one adorned with the portrait of a Russian nun and the other with a bunch of cherries, also formed pretty articles of drawing-room decoration; and a few water-colours completed the exhibition. Among these were two attempts at the humorous in art, one a capital little sketch representing a cock-fight, and the other, of which the idea is better than the execution, entitled "A surprise in store," representing a Shanghai sportsman stalking across country with his gun under his arm, totally oblivious of the fact that he is almost stepping on a pheasant, which in another second must inevitably rise from under his feet, and will probably be out of range long before he has collected his scattered senses.

MADAME MILANI VÊLA'S CONCERT AT THE MASONIC HALL.

Since the decease of the Philharmonic Society, which did so much in former days to promote the study and love of good music in Shanghai, we have been compelled, except on the rare occasions of the visits of professional musicians, to rely on M. Iburg and M. Vêla for any music more scientific than, except the organ recitals, that afforded by the town band and Madame Vêla's concert on Monday night was on the whole up to the highest

standard possible in Shanghai, and was certainly the best that that talented lady has ever given. The Masonic Hall was comfortably filled, the diplomatic world mustering in force, and the lovers of good music; general society was not so widely represented, probably because the entertainment did not conclude with a dance. Madame Vêla, a host in herself, had succeeded in enlisting in her service the highest amateur vocal talent in Shanghai, and it was therefore only natural that vocal music should occupy the greater part of the programme. Considering who the lady amateurs were, whose assistance the *prima donna* had been fortunate enough to secure, it is somewhat remarkable that the Hall was not more crowded.

The first number on the programme was the aria, "O! Luce di quest' anima!" from Donizetti's "Linda di Chamouni." The bright rippling melody of this favourite aria was an excellent opening to the concert, and from the first few notes it was evident that the singer was in splendid voice; in fact, we never remember to have heard her better. Critics have noted before an occasional tendency to harshness in Madame Vêla's singing, but this drawback was hardly traceable on Monday, and the purity of her intonation and brilliance of her style were remarkable. To hear Mme. Vêla sing an aria of Donizetti, is a reminder of what the best singing in the Italian method really is. The duo for piano which followed, arranged by Cerimole from the "Vespro Siciliani" introduced a lady amateur, whom we would fain hear more often. Her touch and execution rivalled M. Vêla's, and the piece was received with hearty applause. In the next number, the Romance "In questi fieri momenti" from Ponchielli's "Gioconda," Mme. Vêla gave her audience a marked contrast to the opening aria; for the romance is as *tristesse* as the aria was joyful. It is a very powerful air, and was admirably sung; but it appeared to be if anything a little over the heads of the audience, and requires to be heard more than once to be thoroughly appreciated. Our leading baritone followed with an air from "Tannhäuser"; it was sung with sufficient animation, and the singer was in good voice; but we have known him to make a better selection. One of the gems of the evening was the duo, "Sparve il sol" from Massenet's "Re di Lahore." The sensuous Oriental music with which Massenet has filled this opera suited admirably the soprano of Mme. Vêla and the mezzo of the lady amateur who sang with her, and as a piece of singing it was perfect. It was redemanded with a furor of applause, and the singers graciously repeated the latter half of it. The first part of the concert closed, and the second part opened, with a quartet in E flat attributed to Mozart, but with all respect to the author of "Don Giovanni," we cannot but consider it an unfortunate selection. The master of melody seems to have gone out of his way to banish melody from this quartet, of which the *andante* especially is tuneless and trivial in the extreme. The second half of the *andante* had been happily excised, but even what remained was inexpressibly tedious. It might have been better if it had been more carefully released; we have no special fault to find with the strings, but the piano was more than once in hopeless difficulties; and there was a great want of precision noticeable in the finale. Mme. Vêla gave us another contrast in the ballad "Io son la farfalla," from Petrella's "Contessa d'Amalfi" which followed; a song almost as bright and sparkling as the opening number, and sung with all possible spirit. The order on the programme was now altered, and M. Vêla followed with the quartet from Verdi's "Rigoletto," arranged for the Piano by Prudent. As usual the master played it entirely from memory, and, though it is a very difficult piece, it was admirably played, with a close attention to light and shade

which does not always mark M. Vela's performances on the piano. Number ten was Roedel's song "Enchanted Ground," by another lady amateur, whose fine and sympathetic soprano was heard with the greatest delight by the audience, the only regret being that the singer had not chosen a less harsh language for the display of her talent. The closing duo, "In questo suol" from Donizetti's "Favorita," brought out our leading baritone again with the prima donna. The duo chosen is not one of the most attractive in Italian opera, but it was well sung, and with a precision that proved that the singers had done everything to merit the applause with which it was received.

In a word, if the chamber music was not altogether up to the pitch which has been reached in former concerts in the Masonic Hall, the vocal, which formed the major portion of the programme has rarely, if ever, been excelled; and we congratulate Madame Vela heartily on the success achieved.

Correspondence.

INTERCEPTED CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM BARON VON TEUFELSDRÖCKH TO THE PRESIDENT AND MINISTERS OF THE —.

I have been honoured by the receipt of Your Highness's letter in reply to my former petition of — which by the way to my regret found its way into the Public Press, and, while I think of it, would it not be well for Your Highness to take measures to suppress all newspapers, excepting those which I may from time to time point out to your Highness as being free from flattery and scolding deceit?

Your Highness has done me a real pleasure, and paid me a compliment which I appreciate at an extreme value, in asking me for information about railway matters, and whom I would recommend as capable of constructing such important works.

Against the English and American Syndicates or combination of merchants for their own good I duly warned you in my last letter. Of the French it is needless to say anything, as after their crushing defeat by your Heaven-blessed troops it would be impossible for your excellent Government to have any pecuniary dealings with them, except in receiving from them the indemnity which they may wish to pay to be relieved of Tonking.

The American and English are not Railway people as we are, and they invariably employ us to lay out, construct, and work their lines. This fact is so notorious that Bi Wang has been obliged to promulge special laws to prevent my countrymen quitting Vaterland, unless to one of our well regulated Colonies, or some other place.

Railways were first invented by Georg von Stephenson; my country is likewise the father and mother of all the other great mechanical inventions, such as the Fraser-Broadwell gun (sometimes known as Crump); the steel processes which have turned the world upside down, the Bessemer, Siemens, Martin, Thomas Gilchrist, Clapp and Griffiths; Herrn Watt, Faraday, Morse, and hosts of other names familiar in men's mouths as household words.

Our money is particularly good to borrow, containing as it does a percentage of bunkam ($H_2 B_4 O_6$) which enables its happy possessor to dispense with ginseng and tiger's teeth. The saving due to having such funds in China can be estimated by Your Highness examining the Import returns for recent years.

Our engineers are as a matter of course the best for all useful purposes, by reason of the vast quantity of books, formula and diagrams which they digest at college, and their consequent high attainments in abstract science. As a rule we employ foreign foremen to do the drudgery of build-

ing our guns and ships and to work our collieries and ironworks, which provides leisure for our engineers to exchange vituperation in the loftiest style of scientific give-and-take until their disputes are dissolved in lager beer and volatilised in tobacco-smoke. In this manner is our reputation for learning maintained, while our subordinates perform our menial work. In this Your Highness cannot fail to perceive the strong affinity between our respective countries. The engineers of the Vaterland are too well trained to interfere in any way with the prejudices of Your Highness's countrymen, and Your Highness may rest assured that under my direction these valuable officers would remain quietly indoors until wanted.

Our Railway system is not only the best in itself, but is particularly well suited to the needs of this country, being costly, ponderous and slow, and at the same time highly ornamented with velvet, gilt and marble. Our Government has the work done by contract, and it usually happens that the taxes increase while contractors and others grow rich. Another feature which would render our system peculiarly suitable to an over-populated country like China, is that we employ six men where one would suffice, and though the traffic is comparatively small, we keep many Commissions, Committees, &c., constantly occupied with fanciful returns which serve admirably to keep a number of pedants out of mischief. This system would absorb the whole of your Censorate, with great benefit to the State. We have had no experience in light economical lines such as are used in what are called "new countries," but your Highness's country is not strictly speaking new, and therefore in utilizing our superfluous genius in old China, we expect to find that our conservative rolling-stock and ivy-covered ideas will fit in well with official notions of finance.

It is a fundamental principle of mine that Railways should be made to pay—the officials and contractors; but as for the delusion of building and working lines on parsimonious principles, we relegate such notions, as the great financial genius of England did the laws of political economy, to the planets Jupiter and Saturn.

With regard to surveys I wholly agree with Your Highness that they are superfluous, but in any case they are easily obtained. We have already procured some excellent maps of China, made while the observer was asleep in a cart. The paper is fixed on his stomach, while a pencil suspended from the roof traces a distant survey of the route, shewing several hundred miles on each side. If the explorer uses a sufficient amount of schnaps, ample colouring will be produced to satisfy the most exacting. I rather doubt whether General Yang Kee has heard of this economical method of surveying, or he never would have spent so much time over the Yellow River, but simple as it looks it is not every one, but only those whom I may name to you, who can use it.

As to our machinery it is of course made showy, and as it is intended primarily to exhibit the high attainments of the designers, it is obvious that simplicity must be rigidly avoided. Our machines are works of art, and are not to be judged by the mere quantity of work they can do at the smallest cost, for on such a principle all the graces of civilisation would be lost. As an example, the multi-piston-rod engine at the small arsenal at Heavenford may be mentioned, as Your Highness can inspect the same whenever you have a mind to travel.

Our great experience all over the uncivilised world is a sure warrant of our capacity to suit our undertakings to Chinese wants—and our own. We will run your coal trains at seventy miles an hour, and your passengers so that they can get out and walk at intervals when their feet are cold. We will employ many

more men to the square inch than in our own country, and guarantee that they shall if possible do less. We will borrow money in London and New York at 4 per cent. and sublet it to you at six. In a word we will do everything that the great love we bear to the land of the Sages may prompt us to.

Moreover I am in a position to offer to Your Highness finished designs of ships, guns, torpedo-boats, dredgers, Whitehead torpedoes, machine-guns, etc., which our draughtsmen, distributed over leading English and American works, have kindly purchased from their careful employers. We have found it vastly advantageous to prohibit designing foreigners from patenting their designs in our country, because by means of the system above indicated we are enabled to manufacture all kinds of novelties without the degrading observance of paying tribute to the inventor. And then, by means of our Protective Tariff we are enabled to charge our beloved countrymen exorbitant prices while offering the same goods dirt cheap to foreign purchasers. This two-edged policy is well worthy of Your Highness's attention, because by increasing taxation it keeps down the rising population on one hand, while it enables you to cut the throat of competitors in neutral markets on the other.

With the profoundest prostration,
Your Highness's most obsequious
and obliged,

V. TEUFELSDRÖCKH.

P.S.—On enquiry of my draughtsman attached to Woolwich Arsenal, I learn that the American and English have between them built some 200,000 miles of railway in various parts of the world, while my countrymen have concentrated their efforts on 20,000 miles. How, I ask in the name of Thunder, can an experience diluted and diffused over such an immense space compare with the closely compacted skill which has been confined within the smaller area?

LEKIN ON TEAS.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Since my letter of the 6th instant, I have been favoured with the following information about Lekin and other Taxes levied on Tea, and I shall be glad if you give me space in your columns. The list is by no means complete, and I may amend it on some future occasion; but it is sufficient for the purpose of showing the grievous burden the Trade has to bear. I will begin with a few of the Black Tea districts:—

Hunan province.—Cheong-sow-kai district:—

Export Duty	2.50 p.pcl.
Lekin or Transit Dues collected through Customs Taotai	1.25 "
Tea Hong Licence fee, 30 cash per 1,000 cash on Tea costing Tls. 15.	0.45 "
Provincial Lekin, 30 cash per 1,000 cash on Tea costing Tls. 15	0.45 "
Tax for building Hankow Bund 7 caudareens per ½ chest	0.15 "

Hk. Tls. 4.80

or Hankow Tals 5.22 p. pcl.

Hupeh provinces.—Tuong-shan district:—

Export Duty	2.50 p.pcl.
Lekin or Transit dues collected through Customs Taotai	1.25 "
Provincial Lekin, 46 cash per 1000 cash	0.69 "
D-fence Tax, 30 cash per 1,000 cash	0.45 "
Tax for building Hankow Bund, 4 caudareens per ½ chest	0.09 "

Hk. Tls. 4.93

or Hankow Tls. 5.38 p. pcl.

The teas from the provinces of Hunan and Hupeh last year did not realise more than an average of Hankow Tls. 18, duty paid,

and so the taxation amounts to 40 per cent. on the short selling price.

The tax for building the Hankow Bund was first imposed about 1860, and was to cease in ten years. It still brings in between Taels 45,000 to 50,000 annually.

All teas coming from the Hupeh province have to pay 4 candareens per half chest, whilst those from Hunan are charged 7 candareens per half-chest.

There are some other small forced contributions of which I have no particulars.

We will now look at some of the districts which feed Kiukiang.

Ningchow Districts:—

Export Duty.....	Hk. Tls. 2.50 p.pcl.
Lekin or Transit dues collected through Customs Taotai	1.48 "
Tax levied at Kiu Tong Barrier ...	.12 "
	Hk. Tls. 4.10 "
or Hankow Tls. 4.46 "	

Hohow Districts:—

Export Duty.....	Hk. Tls. 2.50 p.pcl.
Lekin or Transit dues collected through Customs Taotai	1.25 "
Tax levied at Kiu Tong Barrier ...	.30 "
	Hk. Tls. 4.05 "
or Hankow Tls. 4.41 "	

Keemun Districts:—

Export Duty.....	Hk. Tls. 2.50 p.pcl.
Lekin or Transit dues collected through Customs Taotai	2.50 "
Tax levied at Kiu Tong Barrier ...	0.27.7 "
	Hk. Tls. 5.27.7 "
or Hankow Tls. 5.74 "	

Green tea is taxed quite as heavily, except Pingsueys.

Teenkai and Moyune:

Export Duty	Hk. Tls. 2.50 p.pcl.
Lekin paid to Teenkai office, Tls. 2.08 per 120 catties.....	1.73 "
Tax levied at Wai-ping	.33.4 "
Chekian Coast defence*	.08 "

Haikwan T's. 4.64.4 "

Shanghai T's. 5.17 "

* This Tax may be remitted this year.

Pingsueys:

Export Duty.....	2.50 p.pcl.
Lekin through Shaou-hing to Ningpo.73.4 "	
If passing through Hangchow to Ningpo, a further tax for repaying the Sea Wall of.....	.40 "

Haikwan Tls. 3.63.4 "

Shanghai Tls. 4.05 "

I believe I am correct in saying that the only item of the above taxes that goes into the Imperial Exchequer is the Export Duty. All the rest of them go into the pockets of the Provincial authorities and underlings, and are used not for the benefit of the people nor for the improvement of the country in any shape or form.

These taxes have not even the excuse of being protective, but quite to the contrary they are sucking the life-blood out of the trade and will bring misery and want upon a large section of the people. What China should aim at should be the enlargement of her export trades by all possible means. By so doing she gives greater employment to her workmen, she improves the condition of the agriculturalist, she brings wealth and contentment to her merchants; and every one knows that the stability of Governments greatly depends on the happiness of the governed.

It would be impossible to find any more certain source of wealth to this country than the tea trade. The consumption of some sort of tea is still a growing taste, and its use becomes more wide-spread every year. Tea is an indigenous plant in China, cultivated with very little trouble, subject to no blights, independent of accidents of the weather, which so often destroy a fruit root, or silk crop. Even prepared in the primitive way it now is, the value of the crop is

never destroyed, although continuous soaking rains may fall throughout the curing season; but owing to the competition of other countries the fruits of the labour of the tea-grower are now entirely swallowed up in paying taxes from which he derives no benefit.

I would strongly urge that the Tsung-li Yamén should appoint some upright man, associated with a Commissioner of the Imperial Maritime Customs, to enquire into and report on the state of the Tea Trade, and if it be proved that my statements are correct and that the Trade is in danger of being ruined, they will agree with me that the whole of the taxation on tea must be abolished.

An important Commission was appointed to define the boundary between Tonquin and China. Why should there not be one appointed to enquire into this much more important question, affecting the future of the principal export from China?

Yours faithfully,

K. C. Y.

Shanghai, 15th March, 1886.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—My letters to you on the subject of the Tea Trade would be incomplete without some comparison of prices to show the marked depreciation in values which has taken place within the past few years, and consequently how much heavier the taxation bears on the Trade now than it did when selling prices were higher.

We will take Black Tea first and compare prices as given in the Hongkong Overland Trade report for 1875 with those for the past year.

	1875	1885
Free of Export Duty.		
Ninghows opened at	£29 a 62½	£24 a 48
Oomans and Oamfas do.	19 a 39	14 a 32
Oomaks do.	20½ a 42½	17½ a 30
Lowest quotation for first crop tea	17½	7½

Green tea last year opened at about Tls. 2 a picul higher than the previous season, and we must go back another year to make a fair comparison. I take these quotations from the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce Circular:—

	1874	1884
Duty paid.		
Pingsueys opened at ...	£25½ a 53	£14 a 33
Country Teas do. ...	33½ a 47	19 a 34

The decline in sterling cost has been much greater owing to the fall in the rates of exchange: in fact, the Tea Trade would have already become impossible if it had not been for the fall in exchange.

It is apparent to the meanest capacity that a Tax which would be lightly borne in 1874-75 has become an intolerable burden in 1884-85. There is no probability of prices ever rising again to the range people were accustomed to pay even a few years back, and the only alternative is to adapt oneself to the altered conditions of the Trade. Already the greatest economy is practised in all the expenses attendant on preparation and packing, etc., commissions to middlemen have been reduced to a minimum and it remains for the Government which professes to have the welfare of its people at heart to abolish the Taxes they can no longer pay.

It will probably be said, but England charges a heavier Duty on Tea than China does. True, but the 6d. Duty in England is levied on all Tea alike, and is not imposed to the injury of any individual nation. It may curtail consumption of Tea generally, but it affects India and Ceylon quite as much as it does China, and as a further proof of its comparative harmlessness the prices realised in the United States where Tea is Duty free are no higher than those realised in London.

The taste for China tea in England is not dying out, but buyers naturally look for the best value and this can undoubtedly be better found in the Duty-free produce

of other countries than in the heavily taxed China tea. English and American buyers will buy China tea at the same relative value as that from other countries. Although deliveries of China tea in London have fallen off somewhat during the past few years the stocks there are decreasing yearly, clearly proving that buyers would take considerably more if it could be produced to sell at London rates.

The natural increase of the tea export from China used to be reckoned at 5 per cent. per annum. It has not increased for many years. I am informed that no new ground is being planted in any of the larger districts as it does not pay to grow.

England, which is still the largest market for China tea, will be virtually independent of her in a few years owing to the rapidly increasing production of India and Ceylon. The United States, another large customer, promises to be chiefly supplied from Japan. Can China afford to lose the two best customers she has? She can only retain them by a great effort. First, by making Tea Duty-free. Second, by improving the article itself.

Thanking you for the valuable space you have allowed me in your column.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

K. C. Y.

Shanghai, 16th March, 1886.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS AND MR. GLADSTONE.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Shortly before Christmas we were startled by being informed through Reuter's telegram that Mr. Gladstone had submitted some scheme for Home Rule in Ireland to the Queen, and that Her Majesty had laid the same before the then existing Cabinet. We now know that nothing of the sort ever took place, but I have not seen this fact noticed in the Shanghai papers; I mean I have not seen Reuter's Agency censured as it ought to be for telegraphing such erroneous information. If the news had been sent as a mere rumour, perhaps we should have had no fault to find; but if I remember rightly—I cannot at present refer to the newspaper file to make certain that my impression is correct,—it was given as a statement of fact, and it was not a fact, but a fabrication. Reuter's Agent might be a little more careful as to the information he sends.

I am, Sir, etc.,

A RESIDENT AT AN OUTPOST.

10th March.

*** The telegram to which our Correspondent alludes was given on the faith of a leader in the *Times*, which we think good enough authority for a Reuter's message.

If the news has reached the outposts that Mr. Gladstone never communicated his scheme for Home Rule to the Queen, it has not yet been made known here, nor have we seen any contradiction of the fact or fabrication in any London newspaper, not even when Lord Salisbury spoke of Mr. Gladstone as skulking behind ambiguous denials of declarations of Home Rule opinion which appeared to be authentic.—Ed.

AN INVITATION TO MISSIONARIES.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I attended the debate last evening in the hope of learning something about the work that is being done by the missionaries in China, being conscious of extreme ignorance of the subject, and earnestly desirous of getting rid of some of this ignorance as soon as possible. To my great surprise and regret only one gentleman attempted to give any information, and I went home deeply disappointed at what seemed to be a lost opportunity. We were asked to vote upon the question as to whether the value of missionary work in China is over, or under estimated by lay

foreign residents. Notice of the debate has been advertised for some time, as well as the fact that it was to be an "open debate," and surely lay foreign residents had some right to expect that missionaries would have felt it to be consistent with their duties to take advantage of the opportunity to let us know something of the great work that they are engaged in. I care nothing for mere discussions as to figures; whether there are 40,000, or 400,000 "converts." What I do want to know is, how do missionaries do their daily work in their Churches, Schools, Hospitals, and Houses, and what evidence can they give us of the results of their work upon the lives and characters of the people with whom they come into contact. The "value" of the work depends upon two things, viz: (1) its Christianizing influence; and (2) its Civilizing influence. If Missionaries will give us information as to what they are doing, and how they are doing it, I think that they will greatly assist and advance the cause for which they are working. The mere publication of reports, pamphlets, &c. is of very little use. Meetings regularly held, made as interesting as possible, and at which laymen are invited and encouraged to speak are what the friends of missionaries need. If missionaries would hold an "Open Conference," say once a month in some Hall in Shanghai, take laymen into their confidence, and invite their co-operation, and criticism, they would strengthen and refresh themselves, and in time utterly change the opinion of foreign lay residents as to the value of their work.

Yours faithfully,

D.

Shanghai, 12th March.

MISSIONARIES AND RESIDENTS.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I was very pleased to read the letter of "D" in your paper this morning, bearing on Missionary work, and the duty of a more public representation of it. The idea fully accords with what I have often expressed on the subject, and more than this, what I have often endeavoured to bring about. It is in my estimation a duty on the part of the Missionaries, and owing to the foreign community in every part of China. It is true that current papers on the point are within the reach of every one, and no less the Mission Chapels and Schools, as well as the Missionaries themselves. Yet it is fully allowed that these do not make up for all the requirements of the case both in order to furnish complete and definite information, and to undo the doubt and suspicion that have all along largely prevailed in regard to it, here as elsewhere throughout the East. It is to be wished that a better understanding obtained between the Missionaries and the foreign community generally on the matter, and the views expressed in the above letter have my entire sympathy and concurrence.

In reference to the discussion on the subject at a meeting of the Shanghai Debating Society, I was at the first struck with no little surprise. It awakened a feeling of interest, and I was inclined to avail of the opportunity to make a statement as to my own knowledge and experience of Missionary work. I was aware that the debaters on the one side and the other would labour under great disadvantages from neither having any acquaintance with the subject. Apart however from being engaged the same evening at the meeting of a Society for the best interests of the young men in this place, I was disappointed at no request having been made for the attendance and aid of the Missionaries on the occasion, who could have rendered most valuable help for the purpose. It was a natural expectation that this would have been done for more reasons than one,

and as the course of debate from previous experience had gone on lines that ran counter to the dearest and deepest feelings of not a few in the community, it was considered to be the wisest step to abstain from being present, in the hope that there yet would be suitable opportunities for laying the whole matter of Mission work before the public notice.

I am, etc.,

WM. MUIRHEAD.

Shanghai, 13th March.

THE MISSIONARY DEBATE.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Mr. Muirhead makes a statement in his letter which appears in your issue of to-day, calculated to mislead the public in respect of the Shanghai Literary and Debating Society's debate on "The value of missionary labour."

While admitting that his first impulse was to attend that debate, and give, for the benefit of the community at large, his own experiences of missionaries and their work, he complains that the missionary body was not invited to state its views.

Beyond the fact, publicly advertised, that anyone could obtain a ticket of admission on application to any member of the Society, he was well aware that the Society specially welcomes those who can lend additional interest and usefulness to its proceedings by authentic and authoritative statements of fact.

The Society, in its general invitations to open meetings, silently prays in Milton's words:—

"What in me is dark

"Illumine: what is low raise and support."

And here particularly was an occasion when missionaries might have given us a little of this light which Mr. Muirhead says they alone, and peculiarly, possess. Yet they preferred to hide their light under a bushel, and for one reason or another, in scriptural language, "could not come." Happily there was one bright exception to this general, and, perhaps, pre-arranged absence; and not the least interesting and instructive speech last Thursday was delivered by an honest, earnest, hard working member of one of the American Missionary Societies.

Yours faithfully,

A MEMBER, S. L. & D. S.

15th March.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Your Correspondent, "A Member, S. L. & D. S.," insinuates that the absence of missionaries from the recent debate was "pre-arranged."

If I am not misinformed, that insinuation is literally true; for the fact is that many of the missionaries were attending another meeting at the same hour, which meeting had been "pre arranged;" that is to say, it had been fixed and announced some days before the first intimation of the proposed debate. But so far were the promoters of this meeting from wishing to make it clash with the debate that they carefully abstained from advertising; and the announcement in the paper of the 11th inst. was introduced without their knowledge. One point more. Some persons must surely have been perplexed with the argument brought forward by "D." "We do not care a fig," he seemed to say, "for missionary reports and pamphlets; what we want is missionary speeches." *Litera scripta manet*. One would have thought it far more easy to be imaginative, loose, and rhetorical in an extempore speech under the excitement of debate, than when writing a report which, in these days (however it may have been in the past), must expect to be subjected to criticism.

What is chiefly wanted in this matter is that careful and minute personal inspection

and examination which doubtless led your Correspondent to describe a recent missionary speaker so justly as "honest, earnest, and hardworking."

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ANOTHER MEMBER, S. L. & D. S.

16th March.

A MILD REPROOF.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—In your leader of this morning, I notice that the name of Thackeray is mentioned in connection with the profound discovery that the mistresses who advertise for cooks, the cooks who advertise for mistresses, "et hoc genus omne," will most probably never come together; may I be permitted to point out that we are not indebted to the author of "Vanity Fair" for this gem of observant thought? I believe that the following is the passage alluded to:—"No," said Mr. Pinch, "No. I have been looking over the advertising sheet, thinking there might be something in it which would be likely to suit me. But, as I often think, the strange thing seems to be that no body is suited. Here are all kinds of employers wanting all sorts of servants, and all sorts of servants wanting all kinds of employers, and they never seem to come together. . . . Even those letters of the alphabet, who are always running away from their friends, and being entreated at the tops of columns to come back, never do come back, if we may judge from the number of times they are asked to do it and don't."

A cursory glance at the above passage will probably suffice to convince the average reader as to its authorship, the forced-humorous strain of its conception, the jerkiness of its execution, and the superficiality of reflection that it conveys, all stamp it as the work of that shallow bathos-monger, Charles Dickens. Sir, is it not enough that a credulous generation has been caught by the glitter of descriptive detail with which this over-rated man has surrounded his impossible narratives and inconsistent characters; that they have accepted the plated alloy as sterling metal? Is the dust of the author of "Esmond" to be stirred in its honoured grave by the coupling of the name of Thackeray with an extract from "Martin Chuzzlewit"—that crude product of a coarse mind, reeking with vulgar tales of barbers and boarding-houses? As well assign the origin of the portrait, emblematical of law's majesty at the Maloo Mixed Court, to Millais, or of Vela's valses to Verdi, or the management of the Matrimonial News to

Your obedient servant,

SUUM CUIQUE.

Shanghai, 10th March.

Miscellaneous.

RETURN OF THE NORTHERN STEAMERS.

The steamers which left here on the 6th instant for Tientsin have all put in an appearance here again. The *El Dorado* got back on Saturday last having made the round trip in 6 days and 21 hours. She was the first to leave Shanghai and, having no delay at Taku, first to reach Tientsin, though not to get to Taku, the first to leave Tientsin and the first to return to Shanghai. The *Kowshing* returned next, but all we can gather from the *Kowshing's* report is that she left Taku Bar at 6.45 p.m. on the 11th and arrived at Shanghai at 7.45 p.m. on the 13th, thus making the voyage in 49 hours, beating her best record by half an hour. The third boat back was the *Uacan*. She was the last but one to leave Shanghai, starting from Kin-lee-yuen at 10.40 a.m. on the 6th, and off Drinkwater Point went

to the front, passing all the other boats except the *Kowshing* which led all the way to Taku. *Shaweschan* was passed at 3.30 p.m. on the 6th; N.E. Promontory at 9.30 p.m. on the 7th; Houki 7.05 a.m. on the 8th; and she anchored off Taku Bar at 6.40 p.m. on the same day, but the *Haeen* had to wait, as did the other steamers, except the *El Dorado*, for the p.m. tide. She arrived off the Taku Custom House at 5.30 p.m. on the 9th, and Tientsin at 10.30 p.m. the same day. The weather was fine all the way up from Shanghai, except from 6 p.m. to midnight of the 7th, when it was foggy. The *Haeen* left Tientsin at 9.40 a.m. on the 11th, arrived at Taku Forts at 2 p.m., and crossed the Bar at 6 p.m. on the same day; passed N.E. Promontory at 1 p.m. on the 12th, arriving at Shanghai at 8.15 p.m. on the 13th. The *Haeen* made the passage up to Taku in 55 hours 45 minutes and down again in 50 hours 15 minutes. The *Wuchang* was the third vessel to leave Shanghai. She started at 10.20 a.m. and overhauled the *El Dorado* before Drinkwater Point was reached; behind her came the *Chungking*, *Taku* and *Fingshun*, and then the steamers got into groups, the *Kowshing* and *Haeen* ahead, the *Wuchang*, *Chungking*, *El Dorado* and *Taku* next, and the *Fingshun* last. Next the *Chungking* dropped behind, as did the *Taku*, but not a great distance off. Before Taku was reached, the *Chungking* and *Fingshun* had dropped out of sight. The *Wuchang* got to Taku Bar at 0.45 a.m. on the 9th, and the *El Dorado* and *Taku* put in an appearance within half an hour afterwards, and the *Chungking* an hour and a half later. Here the *Wuchang*, as was the case with all the other steamers, except the *El Dorado*, had to lighten, and at 4.45 p.m. on the same day, the *Wuchang* started for Tientsin in company with some of the other steamers, the *Haeen* having gone ahead a little, but the *Kowshing* grounded in the Nine Fort Reach at 11 o'clock on the same evening, and being ahead of the *Wuchang*, the latter boat was compelled to stop till the *Kowshing* floated. She started on the following morning at 7 o'clock. Tientsin was reached at 10.40 a.m. on the 10th, and the *Wuchang* left Tientsin the next day at 10.20 a.m. arriving at Shanghai at 7.45 a.m. on the 14th. The *Taku* has not returned yet. She was detained at Taku owing to her propeller getting foul of one of the cargo boat chains, and she was ashore on the Taku Bar, as was also the *Pechili*, which arrived there from Hongkong on the 9th instant. The *Toonan* left here nearly two hours after the other steamers, so we have not included her in the list. The following may be of interest to some of our readers. The *Kowshing* in 1884 made the voyage from Taku to Shanghai in 49 hours and 30 minutes; the *Wuchang* from Taku to Shanghai, via Chefoo, in 64 hours, while the *Haeen* ran from Chefoo to Shanghai in a few minutes under 39 hours. The *El Dorado* left Shanghai again on Sunday morning for Tientsin direct, and the *Kowshing*, *Haeen* and *Wuchang* on Tuesday; while the *Fingshun* started at the same time for the same port via Chefoo.

OVER THE SUNSHINE OF EXISTENCE HANGS A BLACK CLOUD.

With the uncertainty of life is mingled the dark mystery of death! While, on the one hand, we catch the welcome sound of a new breath of life that tells of an addition to our species, on the other we shudder as we hear the rushing wings of the Destroying Angel! The mighty voice of the Great Influence which rules the Universe has pronounced our fate; the dread fiat has gone forth, and every mortal man is doomed to die! But, though we cannot prevent, can we postpone death? The question is momentous, even if it concern the prolongation of life but by a single hour, inasmuch as every instinct prompts us to fight the boldest battle we can for this glorious boon

of existence. The promptings of instinct are but the spontaneous voices of nature, and it is our duty to obey. But there still remains the question, can death be postponed by a single hour? Yes; for the world works in obedience to certain laws; and a study of these proves that those who have the judgment and the will to buckle on the shield, which nature places ready to their grasp, may ward off the insidious attack of the implacable enemy of life, until, in a ripe old age, the vital faculties gradually decay, and the Angel of Peace glides softly into our presence, leading us, as it were, in a gentle slumber to the regions beyond the shadow of the tomb.

The Fell Destroyer makes his first approaches in many forms, but none are more favoured by him than that of a deadly foe now preying upon the very vitals of Modern Society. What is this foe? There are few among us who have not been or are now to some extent its victims. Would the reader know if he, too, is under the ban of this frightful scourge? Let him ask himself whether he experiences any of the following symptoms:—

There are pains about the chest and sides, and sometimes in the back. The mouth has a bad taste, especially in the morning; and there are feelings of dulness and drowsiness. The appetite is poor, a sort of sticky slime collects about the teeth, there is a feeling as of a heavy load on the stomach, and sometimes a faint, all-gone sensation at the pit of the stomach, which food does not satisfy. The eyes are sunken, the hands and feet become cold and clammy. After a while a cough sets in, at first dry, but attended in the course of a few months with expectoration of a greenish colour. The sufferer feels constantly tired, and sleep seems to afford him no rest. Nervousness, irritability, and evil forebodings follow. When rising suddenly, there is a giddiness, a sort of whirling sensation in the head. The bowels become costive; the skin is dry and hot at times; the blood becomes thick and stagnant; the whites of the eyes are tinged with yellow; the urine is scanty and high coloured, depositing a sediment after standing. There is frequently a spitting up of the food—at times with a sour taste and at others with a sweetish taste. This is often attended with palpitation of the heart or impaired vision, with spots before the eyes, accompanied by great prostration and weakness. All of these symptoms are in turn present. It is thought that nearly one-third of our population has this disease in some of its varied forms. Medical men have mistaken the nature of the malady. Its true name is Dyspepsia or Indigestion; for which a certain remedy is to be found in Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup—a medicine which has won in both hemispheres a confidence founded only on its great virtues. The Syrup can be obtained from any chemist or medicine vender, or from the proprietors, A. J. WHITE (Limited), 17, Farringdon Road, London, E.C.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY.

YOUR PREPARATION IS AN EXCEPTION.

"The Pharmacy, Regent Road,

"Great Yarmouth, Dec. 28th, 1883.

"Dear Sir,—Your medicine must be a great success. You can quite understand that I have not much opinion of what are called *quack medicines*, which are generally *cure all* and *worthless*, and I should be glad to see them swept out of existence with the "besom of destruction." Your preparation however, is an exception, and is undoubtedly useful. One of my brothers took it with considerable benefit; and, to be candid with you, I only laughed at him, and said, "His faith had healed him." I was very ill myself this year with Congested Liver, Indigestion, &c., and after much persuasion by my brother, to please him, I consented to try Mother Seigel's Syrup, and I am bound to say, that in spite of my prejudice and unbelief, it did me more

good than anything else. I am better in health now, but not quite well, and probably never shall be again, as my heart has become weak, although I am considerably under fifty years of age. I mention my case to you, thinking it might be of some interest to you.—I remain, faithfully yours,

"W. Sheppard Pole (Ph. C.)."

I HAVE NOT HEARD A SINGLE COMPLAINT.

"Baldock, Herts, January 4th, 1883.

"Gentlemen,—Perhaps it would be appropriate to state that it gives me great pleasure to push and advance the sales of your medicines, on account of their worth. I have not had or heard a single complaint about your medicines since I have sold them, but, on the other hand, unbounded testimony as to their worth, therefore I can with confidence bring them to the public notice. During 1882 I sold 11½ dozens of the Syrup, and 7½ dozen Pills. This, I think, taking into account that the inhabitants are under 2,000, and there are two other agents in town, will give you a good idea as to how it is appreciated here.—Faithfully yours,

"H. J. Izzard, Pat. Med. Vendor."

(1 alt.) of 37

Advertisement.

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EWEN CAMERON,
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31de 877 Shanghai, 12th March, 1886.
n 2ur (c.a.) Z

OPIUM RETURN FOR WEEK ENDING 13TH MARCH, 1886.

IMPORTED	MALPA		PATNA		BENARAS		PERSIAN	
	Chests	Weight	Chests	Weight	Chests	Weight	Chests	Weight
Imported and stored on board Receiving Vessels	28	28.00	..	..	..	..	2	2.00
Returned from shore on board R. Vessels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Imported and transhipped for re-exportation without being stored on board Receiving Vessels or landed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Landed direct	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	28	28.00	..	..	..	..	2	2.00
Landed from Receiving Vessels and intended chiefly for Local consumption	47½	47.50	93	111.60	65	78.00	1	1.00

RE-EXPORTED from board Receiving Vessels:—

Description	Chinkiang	Wuhu	Kiukiang	Hankow	Chefoo	Tientsin	Newchwang	Ningpo	Wenchow	Swatow	Hongkong	Total
	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Chts. Wght.	Wght. Pcs.
Malwa	95 95.00	130 130.00	40 40.00	32 32.00	..	37 37.00	..	135 135.00	..	..	..	469 469.00
Patna	2 2.40	..	..	1 1.20	..	..	..	14 16.80	..	..	..	17 20.40
Benares	8 9.60	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 28.80	..	..	..	32 39.40
Persian	..	1 1.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 1.00
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	105 107.00	131 131.00	40 40.00	33 33.20	..	37 37.00	..	173 180.60	..	..	..	519 529.80

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 16th March, 1886.

PIECE GOODS.—Excepting where driven to it by the auctions the dealers have paid but little heed to business since this day week. Without orders of any account from the river districts they set their faces steadfastly towards Tientsin and waited for the first news thence; and they seem still indisposed to action notwithstanding that their advices—per return steamers—came to hand on 12/13th instant, and were, on the whole, deemed favourable. According to those fully one half of the heavy cargoes sent hence on 6/7th instant, had been disposed of, and the prospect for the remainder was considered hopeful, whilst nothing has transpired to lead us to suppose that the ruling rates were unprofitable. Moreover, the steamers that have already returned hither are reported to have brought down over £1,600,000 in silver and gold, and the bill remittances received by them are estimated at about £1,000,000 more. A considerable portion of these funds is, without doubt, on Government and Opium accounts, but traders own a fair share of them, and when the commercial news has been thoroughly digested we shall probably see more activity—by way of clearance at least—on this market.

The clearances for Tientsin this season thus far published by *The Customs*, as against those of the corresponding week last year, are:—

	1886.	1885.		1886.	1885.
Grey Shirtings	205,100 pcs.	103,000	T-Cloths	50,700 pcs.	42,500
White do.	107,600	55,400	Jeans, English	20,400	4,300
Drills, English	31,400	12,000	Sheetings, English	3,100	4,300
Do. American	25,700	3,000	Do. American	124,400	23,500
Prints	20,000	9,000	Im. Cashmeres	9,900	7,000
Turkey Reds	16,400	17,900	Cotton Lustings	36,400	21,900
Spanish Stripes	1,600	600	Lawings	2,440	1,400
Lustres, Figured	1,450	1,880	Cotton Yarn	5,500 pls.	1,200

But the comparison is scarcely just to 1885 inasmuch as shipments were delayed at the opening of last season by the uncertainty attaching to the movements of the French fleet then at our doors. Yet, even taking the next succeeding week's figures and adding them to the above, they fall far short of the returns of to-day.

American Cottons, and SHEETINGS in particular, appear to be amongst the least desirable holdings of the unsold remainder at Tientsin. Indian Head is said to have receded in value from £2.63 to £2 61/60, other chop quotations being weak. At the same time DRILLS were selling on the basis of £2.58 for P.M.C., and it is rumoured that 800 bales (packed in water-proof wrappings, which ensures the goods a preferable sale at the present time) have been placed here in resale at £2.56 per piece net since the steamers arrived, and rumour adds 1,500 pieces *Globe* at £2.47½ from first hands to-day. Those, with 4,000 pieces SHEETINGS, *Maggie* settled early in the week at £2.40 per piece, and 800 pieces No. 1 *Phoenix* at £2.34 booked yesterday, comprise all that has transpired under this heading since last mail closed. The *Strathleven's* cargo of *Drills* and *Sheetings*;—well, it can hardly be described as trifling, being 51,900 pieces and 98,750 pieces respectively.

ENGLISH DRILLS.—Good medium kinds at from £2.00/10 seem to be wanted, but the demand is not active and the settlements are small. *Double Dragon* has realised £2.09 per piece, *Blue Goose* £2.07, and *Dragon*, good, £2.30 per piece. In ENGLISH SHEETINGS there does not appear to have been any business done. The same with JEANS—English and American, whilst of 8½-lbs., GREY SHEETINGS up to yesterday morning the aggregate reported sold was under 15,000 pieces, the *Eagles* at £1.71 and £1.73 again figuring most prominently in the records. Yesterday, however, good medium to very good qualities, being short in stock and readily saleable at Tientsin, were asked for, and some 23,000 pieces (bringing the week's total up to about 40,000, pieces) fell to the demand. But there are not so very many on hand here, and should the northern wants continue prices will most likely harden. Transactions show values as follows, viz.:—*Red Anchor* £1.42½, *Red Cormorant* and *Red Rhinoceros* £1.46, *Silver Fan* and *Red Unicorn* £1.52½, *Blue Goose* (affoat) £1.53, *Butterfly* and *Grasshopper* £1.53½, *Red Pagoda* £1.54, *Blue Dragon Fish* and *Elephant and Snake* £1.56, *Butterfly* (Pao-shun) £1.58, *Blue Joss* £1.60, *Horseman* and *Buffalo* £1.62, *Blue Dragon King* £1.67½, *Blue Butterfly* (Stewart's) £1.68½, *Soldier* £1.74, and the *Eagles* as above, from which the inference—no market for anything under the fair medium grades.

6-lbs. and 7-lbs. have received scarcely any notice in private, and the strength of the market for the heavier and heaviest makes seems giving way. Of 10-lbs. only one sale (2,500 pieces *Blue Dragon King* at £2.05 per piece) has been published, and some say the imminence of large arrivals of contract goods is damping the spirit of the trade, and affecting demand and rates.—Anyhow last Thursday's auction indicated weakness for the heavy as well as for the light fabrics.

White Shirtings.—Of 64-reeds, the reported sales barely add up 4,500 pieces, and *Llanke* at £1.80 forms the chief portion of the total. Low counts continue neglected, and in 72-reeds only an occasional parcel is booked, the last published being 1,000 pieces *Blue Double Dragon* at £1.97½ per piece. *Blue Star of India*, *White Irishes*, 500 pieces have been settled at £2 32½ per piece.

T-Cloths.—The market for 7-lbs. remains without change. Quotations steady, with little demand and not much business passing. Yesterday the sale of 5,000 pieces *Blue Rhinoceros* at £1.10 per piece was announced, and that is the only transaction worth noting under this heading to-day.

Cotton Yarn.—The first shipments to Tientsin this season, from their magnitude, are said to have dumfounded the good folks there. Still the trade in Bombay spinnings goes on here, and although attempts are being made to lower prices, they have, as yet, been unsuccessful. About 550 bales have been sold this week, *Yellow Lion* in 16s. and 20s. realising £54½ and £56½, *Gold Elephant* 16s. £54, *Blue Fish* 16s. £55, and *Red Dragon* and *Gold Four-Man* 20s. £57.00 per bale. Ten bales of 32s. double fold, *Red Man* and *Fish* at £74 00 is the sum of the business in English Yarn reported.

Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—Nothing to speak of in either department. Indeed, in the latter, beyond an occasional enquiry for some out of the way sort of thing of special chop, nothing has been experienced outside the auction room, the market advices from Hankow continuing discouraging, whilst stocks of all kinds, in the absence of clearances there and here, are accumulating as well in native (from contract arrivals) as in foreign hands.

P.S.—The steamer arriving from Hankow last night brings rather better news, and *Comites* are rather steadier here in consequence.

Metals.—From Mr. Alex. Bissfeld's report:—Business during the week has been almost at a standstill. Market news from Tientsin are not unfavourable, while reports from the Hankow are not at all encouraging. LEAD.—There has been a further decline in rates, and sales have been of L.B. to arrive at £4.32½, spot at £4.35. NAILROD IRON.—The market is very dull and dealers who laid in large stocks before Chinese New-Year are losing heavily. Sales reported are:—100 tons *Sohier's* at £1.52½ and 100 tons *Sohier's* at £1.50. BAR IRON remains neglected. PIG IRON is fairly steady at quotations. OLD IRON.—Quotations are well maintained. Shipments to Newchwang particularly are considerable and a good business may be expected shortly. TINPLATES.—In demand at a fraction below quotations. STEEL.—No business reported. SPELTER.—In some demand. STRAITS TIN.—Small sale at quotations. COPPER AND YELLOW METAL SHEATHING.—At quotations. JAPAN COPPER.—Neglected. IRON WIRE.—275 casks Nos. 10/25 were sold at £3.90, and 275 casks of the same numbers with gilt ticket, at £4, while a parcel of some 500 casks Nos. 15/30 is reported for sale much below these figures. QUICKSILVER.—No charge.

Miscellaneous.—From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report :—**MATCHES.**—There has been some demand for Safety's, and 300 cases 2 Boys have been placed at £14. **NEEDLES.**—Business has been confined to retail sales. Paper boxes are in fair inquiry. **DYES AND COLORS.**—The demand for violet has continued and small sales have resulted at 7 c. per 2 oz. bottles. Scarlet in 2 oz. bottles has been sold at the same price. Indents have been taken up on a small scale and deliveries are anything but satisfactory.

Kerosene Oil.—The market has been very depressed during the week and only a small business of spot has been done at quotations. To arrive there have been no sales reported. Stock, including cargo per *Sea Witch*, is estimated at 290,000 cases.

Opium.—Closing quotations :—Malwa, new, at £394; old, at £412; Patna, new, at £412; Benares, new, at £410.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. Cromie & Burkill's circular :—London telegrams quote Dancing Bear No. 2—13/6.

RAW SILKS.—Moderate transactions only are reported this week, but the market has continued fairly steady, and prices are without change. Rather a strong enquiry has sprung up for Hangchows, whilst Yellow Silks of fine size have met with a fair share of attention at quotations.

TSATLEES.—About 70 bales have been settled on a basis of £362½ per picul for Chop No. 4.

HANGCHOWS.—Sales are close upon 250 bales at £312½ for best cargo.

T'YSAAMS.—The market is quiet with very little doing.

YELLOW SILKS.—Some 200 bales have changed hands at £287½ for Best Shantung and at £245 to £255 for Mienchow.

Arrivals, as per Customs Return, from the 9th to the 15th March, are about 90 bales of White Silks and 200 piculs of Yellow.

RE-REELS.—Settlements are nearly 100 bales, market Silks being chiefly dealt in at rather easier prices.

WILD SILKS.—Purchases of 100 piculs of Tussah Raw are reported at £100 to 107½ for ordinary quality. There is no best cargo on offer.

WASTE SILKS.—Fine Gum Nov. 1 and 2 has been sold at £110, and some Nankin Buttons at £71.

SHANTUNG PONGEES.—About 1,000 pieces have been placed at £1.50 for common up to £3.10 per piece for 28 oz. goods.

Purchases include :—TSATLEE—Large Elephant 1 at £362½, Gold Lion 2 at £352½, Gold Elephant at 325. HANGCHOW TSATLEE—Pagoda "Ting-how" at £312½, Lily Flower "Lan-char" at £312½ and "Lan-ping" at £285. T'YSAAM—Green Kahings Market 1 at £300, Chinum at £295. YELLOW SILK—Shantung Good Buffalo at £287½, Mienchow Common at £245. TUSSAH—Raw fair at £107½.

RE REELED TSATLEES.—Best chop at £480, Market 3 at £322½.

	1885-86.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1882-83.	1881-82.	1880-81.	
Settlements for this mail †	about 750	250	500	500	500	500 bales.	
„ for the season †	50,500	52,250	47,800	45,250	46,200	79,000 „	
Stock	5,800	5,000	3,200	19,750	15,000	4,500 „	
Total Arrivals	56,300	57,250	51,000	65,000	61,200	83,500 „	
	† Exclusive of purchases for re-sale on this market.						
	<i>* England.</i>	<i>* France, &c.</i>	<i>Total Europe.</i>	<i>America.</i>	<i>India & Egypt.</i>	<i>Coast & Straits.</i>	<i>Grand Total.</i>
Export White Silk	8,279	24,440	32,719	6,437	711	794	40,661 bales.
„ Yellow „	50	3,614	3,664	18	1,657	379	5,718 „
„ Wild „	214	2,885	3,099	24	3	38	3,164 „
	8,543	30,939	39,482	6,479	2,371	1,211	49,543 „
Against in 1884-85	8,085	35,721	43,806	4,399	2,590	1,008	51,803 bales.
„ 1883-84	16,398	26,007	42,405	2,430	1,136	902	46,873

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London. Also 2,795 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.

Tea.—BLACK.—Market closed.

GREEN.—There has been no business transacted since last mail left.

The unsold stock amounts to about 4,000 half-chests, which will most probably be carried over to next season.

EXPORT FROM SHANGHAI AND YANGTSE PORTS.

From commencement of season to date : 1885-86.

	Black.	Green.	Total.	Black.	Green.	Total.
To Great Britain	66,505,751	11,079,683	77,585,434 lbs.	64,767,332	8,956,464	73,723,796 lbs.
Russia direct	8,118,272	.....	8,118,272 "	11,654,344	.....	11,654,344 "
America	2,880,064	15,599,324	18,479,388 "	3,153,738	14,580,042	17,733,780 "

Shares.—In Hongkong & Shanghai Bank shares the market has been rather quiet during the week—the sales reported are : 185% prem. and exchange 73 for cash and 187½ and same exchange for delivery on the 31st instant. New Oriental Bank shares have been sold at £10 7s. and exchange 4s. 7d. In Insurance stock Hongkong Fire's have been placed at \$382½ to \$381, and China's at \$80 to \$81 for cash and \$81 for 31st current—exchange in all these, 73. Shanghai Gas Co.'s shares have been placed at £210 and French Gas Co.'s at £165; Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf's at £160 and 161 and Pootung Wharf's at £87½ to £84; Shanghai Tugboat's at £85, Birt's Wharf at £30 for May, or later up to 30th September with interest at 8%. A few lots of Sheridan Mining shares have been done at £75; of Cargoboot's, a number at £150, and of Electric Light at £5. Municipal Debentures of 1882 have been done at £105.

Exchange.—There has been a weak feeling in the market since last mail and rates are about ¼d. per tael lower. Not much business has been done, either in bank remittances or private paper and only a few sales of rupees have been made. The steamers from the north have brought about 16 lacs in silver and gold, and a considerable portion of the gold has been sold for export at present quotations. From London telegrams received to-day report a slight decline in the price of silver, and a firm money market in India. Here the demand for money in loans is slack, and the rate 7 per cent. on ordinary good securities.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morris & Fergusson's Weekly Circular.)

	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		HONGKONG.	INDIA.
	T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m's.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.			Rupees. T. transfers.
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.		
Thursday, 11th.....	4.6½	4.6	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Friday, 12th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Saturday, 13th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.86/89	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Monday, 15th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.85/88	5.86/89	27½	304½/5
Tuesday, 16th	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.85/88	5.85/88	27½	304½/5
Wednesday, 17th....	4.6½	4.6½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	4.7½	5.85/88	5.85/88	27½	304½/5

AUCTION SALES.

COTTON GOODS.

Grey Shirtings.—8½-lbs.—Total for the week, 18,410 pieces.

At Ewo, 10th instant, 1,800 pieces; *Tea Caddy X.X. Black*, D.D.D. Blue, and *Double Blue* at £1.40½, £1.59/59½, and £1.69½/70 per piece, respectively.

At Yuen-fong, 11th instant, 11,210 pieces; at £1.19½/20½ for *Green Lighthouse*, £1.21/21 for *Two Man*, £1.22½ for *House*, £1.31½/32½ and £1.45½ for *Britannia*, *Blue and Painted*, £1.35½, £1.44½/45 and £1.49½/49½ for *Four Sisters*, *Blue*, *Red and Gold*, £1.42 and £1.49 for *Blue and Red Three Students*, £1.55½ for *Five Brothers*, £1.60½/60½ for *Blue Unicorn*,* and £1.67/67½ for *Chop Dollar*.*

At Kin-ming, this morning, 3,150 pieces; at £1.28½/29½ and £1.43½/43 for *Lions*, *Green and Red*, £1.39 for *Red Pelican*, £1.39½/39 for *Red Two Wing*, £1.50 for *Red Buffalo*, and £1.52½ for *Red Hunting Horn*.

* Milwaukee.

At Pao-shun, this afternoon, 2,250 pieces; at \$1.41½ for Lion-on-Bale, \$1.52½ for Gold Vulture, and \$1.57 for Green Lion A. and A.A.

6-lbs.—2,175 pieces; at \$0.91 for Two Man, \$0.92½/93 Blue Three Students, and \$0.90½ for Blue Stork.

7-lbs.—2,920 pieces; at \$1.15 for Blue Four Sisters, \$1.20/20½ for Blue Three Students, and \$1.12½ for Blue Britannia.

9½-lbs. a 11-lbs.—4,400 pieces; at \$2.04½ and \$2.08 for X.X. and D.D.D. Blue Tea Caddy, \$1.88½, \$1.95½ and \$2.22 for Britannia, Blue, Red and Painted, \$1.94½/95 \$1.96½/96½ and \$2.24½ for Three Students, A. Red, Red and Painted, \$1.99½ for Blue Lion,* \$2.03½ for Red Four Sisters, and \$2.31½ for Chop Dollar.*

12-lbs.—390 pieces English; Soldier and Double Squirrel at \$2.28/29½ and \$2.45½ per piece.

* Mildewed.

White Shirts.—64-reed, 3,500 pieces; at \$1.46½ for Blue Star, \$1.32½/33 and \$1.31½ for House, dressed and undressed, \$1.40/40½ and \$1.33½/34 for Blue Lighthouse, dressed and undressed.

72-reed.—3,980 pieces; at \$1.80 for Green Angler, \$1.86½/87½ and \$1.85½/86½ for Red Lighthouse, dressed and undressed, \$1.92½/93½ Blue Star, and \$2.03½/03½ and \$2.04½/05 for Gold Star, dressed and undressed.

Irishes.—250 pieces Star of India at \$2.30 per piece.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs., 3,060 pieces; at \$1.01½/02 and \$1.15½/15 for Black and Red Tea Caddy, \$1.02½ and \$1.20 for Blue and Painted Britannia, \$1.09½ and \$1.30½ for Blue and Red Three Students, \$1.10½ for Blue Lion, \$1.20½/21½ and \$1.30 for Eagle X.X. and X.X.X., and \$1.17½ for Black Pelican.

8-lbs.—1,450 pieces; at \$1.28½/28½ for Blue Lion, \$1.39½/40 and \$1.58 for Eagle X.X. and X.X.X., and \$1.58½ for Painted Three Students.

Drills.—(English), 1,215 pieces; at \$1.61 for Dragon (E-wo), and \$1.60½ for Dragon (Yuen-fong), \$2.10½/11 for Stag, \$2.31 for Britannia, and \$2.33½/34 for Old Man Head.

Jeans.—(English), 690 pieces Peacock and Double Squirrel at \$1.36 and \$1.74½ per piece.

Sheetings.—(English), 300 pieces Lion and Old Man Head at \$2.36½ and \$2.49½/49½ per piece; and 425 pieces American, Eagle A. damaged at \$2.38/40½ per piece.

Cotton Yarn.—(English), 10 hales 30/32s. Red and Gold Three Students at \$58.75 and \$60, and \$68/68½ and \$69½ per bale.

Turkey Reds.—1,050 pieces Mandarin \$0.93½/94½ for 2-lbs., \$0.99 for 2½-lbs., \$1.04½/05½ for 2½-lbs., and \$1.08/09 for 2½-lbs.

Velvets.—150 pieces Woman at \$0.13.2½/13½ per yard.

Velveteens.—Stag, 60 pieces 18-inch. at \$0.11.4½ per yard, and 60 pieces 26-inch. at \$0.18.1 per yard.

Figured Orleans.—40 pieces Dragon Fish at \$2.92½ per piece.

WOOLLENS.

Auctions—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Green, and New Green.	Orange and Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White	Purple	Black	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt.	Sales Pcs.
E-wo, 9th instant.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Pcs.
Camlets, Horseman p.p.	8.80/82	8.90	8.77	8.80	8.11	...	...	...	7.85	...	9.37	8.32/35	...
Sales, p.p.	70	10	30	10	30	...	...	...	10	...	10	30	200
House, p.p.	8.91/92½	8.75	8.93	...	8.12	...	...	...	...	...	9.35	8.61	...
Sales, p.p.	30	10	20	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	100
Warrior p.p.	8.60/61	8.08	8.52	8.12	7.46	...	...	...	7.03	...	...	7.99	...
Sales, p.p.	40	10	10	10	10	...	...	...	10	...	...	20	110
Boar	8.59/60	7.57	8.40	...	7.51	...	...	...	7.01	...	8.89	7.70	...
Sales, p.p.	30	10	20	...	10	...	...	...	10	...	10	10	100
Long Ells, H.D.B. p.p.	5.00/01	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
S.Stp., H.D.B. p.yd.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eagle, p.p.	0.40.4/40½	0.42.2	0.44.4/44.6	0.41½	...	...	...	...	0.39	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	36	6	30	6	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	90
Stag, p.p.	0.35.1/35.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
JIN-KEE, 9th instant.	0.41	...	0.45.8	0.43	...	...	...	...	...	0.41.2.42	...	...	...
S. Stripes, Star, p.p.	48	...	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	84
YUEN-FONG, 10th inst.	9.37½/40	9.95/10.00	9.75/80	10.47½	9.27½/45	...	10.92½	...	...	...	9.67½/70	9.55/60	...
Camlets, S.S.G. p.p.	250	90	150	10	30	...	10	...	...	...	30	30	600
Sales, p.p.	9.52½	10.15/17½	9.80/82½	...	10.10	...	...	...	...	...	9.82½	9.75	...
G.G., p.p.	120	60	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	20	290
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Long Ells, G.G., p.p.	4.98/5.00	4.54	5.04	5.25	4.60	...	...	5.26	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	180	40	20	20	20	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	300
Lasting, G.G., p.p.	...	...	9.07½	...	...	...	...	...	8.75	...	...	9.20	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	160	...	...	20	230
Man & Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S. Stripes, T.T.B.	0.45½	0.47	0.47½/48	0.48½	0.47½	0.47½	0.46½	...	...	...	0.48½	...	...
Sales, p.p.	132	24	60	6	6	6	6	...	...	...	6	...	252
Man & Tiger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SIN-WO, To-day.	9.10	9.08	9.42	9.13	8.62	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Camlets, Owl, p.p.	10	10	10	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Sales, p.p.	9.08/07	8.98	9.68	9.33	8.68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gold Fish, P.P.P.	40	20	20	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, p.p.	8.71	8.58	9.31	8.71	8.25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Angler, R.R.R.	10	10	10	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Long Ells, H.H., p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lastings, H.H., p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.07	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S. Stripes, H.H.	0.45.4/45.6	0.46.9	0.51.4	0.48.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Sales, p.p.	168	12	24	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gold Fish, P.P.P.	0.41.75	0.47.1	0.46.4	0.44.1	...	...	...	...	0.40.1	...	...	...	216
Sales, p.p.	36	6	18	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...
KIN-MING, To-day.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.03/05	...	...	...	...
Lastings, C.P.H. p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Elephant p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sales, p.p.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
S. Stripes, C.P.H. p.p.	0.45½/45.6	...	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45.0.45	...	0.44	0.41.4	0.42	0.44	0.47.4	...
Sales, p.p.	72	...	12	3	3	3	6	...	3	12	3	24	144

QUOTATIONS—DUTY PAID.				DUTY.		QUOTATIONS—DUTY PAID.				DUTY.			
				Tls. m. c.						Tls. m. c.			
G. E. GREY SHIRTINGS—						PRINTED TWILS—24/25 yds							
6-lbs 39-in 38½-yds.....nom	pc.	T.m.c.	T.m.c.	0.0 S per pce.		50/52	pc.	1.10	1.70	0.07 per 30 yd.			
7-lbs		0.97½	1.25			Special		2.65	3.35				
Dewhurst's Eagle		None						3.70					
8½ to 8½-lbs		1.12½	1.65			TURKEY REDS—				0.15 per pce.			
D. Eagle and XX		1.70	1.72			24-yd 1½ to 3-lbs. 32-in, nom	pc.	0.70	1.40				
9 to 9½-lbs		1.72½	1.90			Best		1.25	1.80				
9½ to 10-lbs		1.80	2.20			VELVETS—Black, 22-in.....nom				0.18 per pce.			
Dewhurst's, Best		2.10	2.35			VELVETEENS—Black, 18-in	yd.	0.12½	0.18				
11 to 12-lbs English 36 in		2.05	2.42			26-in		0.010½	0.14½				
12-lbs American 32/56 in		2.20	2.45			BLUE DENIMS	nom	0.16½	0.20	0.15 "			
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS—						DIPTIES—12-yd 37-in	pc.	0.03	0.04				
40-yds 36-in 56-rd.....	pc.	1.15	1.30	0.10 "		41-in		0.90	1.20	5 percent ad. val.			
60-reel		1.20	1.35			MUSLINS—12-yd 42-in		1.00	1.35				
64		1.30	1.75			YARN—COTTON—Nos. 28/32		0.45	0.72½				
64 " Best and 66-reel		1.65	1.87½			16/24, nom		52.50	75.00	0.03½ "			
72 to 80-reel		1.75	2.20			CAMELTS—English, SS.....	pc.	52.00	62.00				
Best		2.10	3.40			GG		8.50	11.75				
DRILLS, Am. 40-yd 30-in 14-lbs	pc.	2.45	2.57			SSG		9.77		0.05			
English, " 14 to 15-lbs		1.50	1.90			HDB		9.64					
" Good to Finest		1.95	2.55			CPH		9.22					
Dutch, 14 to 14½-lbs.....nom		2.00	2.30	0.07½ "		CPH		9.63		0.12	Per Chang of 141 inches.		
JEANS, Dh., 30-yd 30-in 8½-lbs	pc.	1.40	1.68			Dutch, 33 to 24-in nom		15.00	18.00				
English, " 8 to 8½-lbs		1.30	1.75			Do. 37-in		17.25	22.50				
American " heavier		1.50	1.95			MEDIUM & BROAD CLOTHS	yd.	0.65	1.40	0.04½			
SHEETINGS—						SPANISH STRIPES		0.35	0.55				
Am., 40yd 36/35in 14lb. nom.	pc.	2.25	2.62½			" HDB		0.45½		0.15			
Eng., " 14 to 16lb.		1.50	2.50			" TTB		0.45½	0.48½				
T. CLOTHS—						" BH		0.454	0.514				
6-lbs 24-yd 32-in Ord., nom	pc.	0.75	0.90	0.04 "		" BTI		0.45	0.50	0.05			
7-lbs		0.80	0.95			" CPH		0.43½	0.46				
6-lbs Mexican		None				LONG ELLS—				0.05			
7-lbs		0.97½	1.30			Scarlet, 24-yd GG.....	pc.	4.98	5.00				
7-lbs Mexican Special chops		1.25	1.75			" HH		5.10	5.15	0.04½			
8 to 8½-lbs		1.05	1.60			" CPH.....nom.		5.00					
Better kinds and XX		1.72½	2.00			" UU		5.10	5.12½				
HANDKERCHIEFS—						" HDB		5.00	5.01	0.05			
Blue, 28 to 32-in	doz.	0.40	0.55			" V		5.09	5.10				
Brown		0.37½	0.41			" Sundries		3.50	5.30				
SPOTTED SHIRTINGS—White.	pc.	1.80	2.00	0.07 per pce.		Assorted, HH		nom.		0.05			
Dyed, nom		2.00	2.30			" CPH							
BROCADES—White, 40-yd		1.85	2.00			" GG							
Dyed		2.20	2.45			" UU				0.05			
DAMASKS—Dyed, 40-yd, nom		2.25	3.75			LASTINGS, 30-yd	pc.	5.00	8.50				
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS		1.85	2.20			GRAPE LASTINGS, 30-yd nom		2.25	5.75				
CHINTZ—Assorted	pc.	1.00	1.40			GRAPE LUSTRES				0.20 per pcl.			
Blue		0.90	1.15			PLAIN LUSTRES, Black.....		2.75	3.40				
Brown.....nom		1.10	1.20			ORLEANS—Figured, 30-yd		2.20	2.70				
Scarlet		1.20	1.40			Special Colors & Patterns		2.50	3.30				

METALS.		QUOTATIONS.		SUNDRIES.		QUOTATIONS.		
		T.m.c.	T.m.c.			T.m.c.	T.m.c.	
JAPAN COPPER—Tiles, best		12.75	@ 13.25	SUGAR—		4.70	@ 5.20	
" Ore		11.20	" 11.50	White, Canton, No. 1		4.50	@ 4.80	
QUICKSILVER—American		48.00	" 49.50	" " " 2		3.80	" 4.10	
TIN PLATES—Parson's.....		3.80	" 4.00	White, Swatow, No. 1		4.80	" 5.20	
Other brands.....		3.70	" 3.80	" " " 2		4.70	" 5.10	
STEEL, Plain		2.55	" 2.65	" " " 3		3.90	" 4.30	
Bamboo		2.70	" 2.80	Brown, Canton, Best.....		3.00	" 3.30	
TIN, Fong Hing		25.80	"	" Common.....		2.80	" 3.00	
Fok Chok		25.40	"	" Swatow, Best.....		3.30	" 3.50	
Sok-kong and other brands		25.00	"	" Common.....		2.80	" 3.00	
FIG IRON		16.50	" 22.00	PEPPER—Black		15.00	" 17.00	
IRON WIRE, Nos. 11 & 21		3.80	" 4.00	White		26.50	" 31.50	
" " 14 & 25		3.85	" 4.00	RATTANS—Common		3.00	" 3.20	
" " 18 & 25		4.10	" 4.25	Best		5.20	" 6.20	
IRON—Nail Rod—				SAFAN WOOD.....		1.70	" 2.40	
Dawes' Best		1.90	" 1.95	SANDALWOOD, South Sea		2.90	" 3.20	
Staffordshire		1.82½	" 1.90	Timor		7.00	" 8.00	
Belgian, common		1.50	" 1.52½	Malabar		11.50	" 12.50	
" Sohier.....		1.50	" 1.52½	WINDOW GLASS—				
English—Bar		1.60	" 1.90	Good assortments		2.35	" 2.45	
Belgian		1.55	" 1.70	KEROSENE—Devco's		1.23	" 1.23½	
Swedish		2.85	" 3.10	FLINT STONES		0.46	" 0.62	
LEAD—				COTTON—Shanghai, best.....		11.00	" 11.60	
I. B.		4.30	4.35	Compoek		11.20	" 11.70	
French.....				RICE—Shanghai		p. 150 cat.	3.05	" 3.25
German				Chinkiang			2.75	" 3.25
				HIDES—Cow		13.20	" 13.50	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per Str. "PESHAWUR," cleared 10th March, for LONDON.—China ware 2 62 piculs. Treasure—taels 7,361. For NEW YORK.—Musk 0.15½ picul. For MARSEILLES—Musk 0.10½ picul. For TRIESTE.—Musk 0.02 picul. For BOMBAY.—Treasure—taels 50,182.

Per Str. "JASON," cleared 13th March, for LONDON.—Nutmalls 105.10 piculs. Strawbraid 6.60 piculs. For NEW YORK.—Strawbraid 35.33 piculs. For HAMBURG.—Feathers 407.15 piculs. Nutmalls 168.20 piculs.

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 15th March, 1886, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 53 to 58, both numbers inclusive.

GOODS.	RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.																
	Singpo.	Wenchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kinkiang.	Rankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Nagasaki.	Higo.	Yokohama.	Cebu.	Local.	Myndia.
Grey Shirtings †.....Pcs.	7,785	100	22,190	4,515	5,040	28,924	9,285	205,130	...	1,350	...	1,400	...	...	...	13,600	...
T-Cloths, 32-in. "	1,690	50	2,675	1,040	320	2,220	3,025	49,114	...	6,700	...	...	...	...	...	2,040	400
36-in. "	2,760	...	100	360	370	530	...	1,600	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	470	...
White Shirtings "	1,250	50	3,715	1,510	2,187	12,047	1,635	107,621	...	430	...	...	...	250	...	1,080	727
Drills, English & Dutch "	45	...	555	...	...	180	615	34,420	...	135	...	...	...	...	...	90	...
American "	...	...	270	...	...	...	1,185	25,755	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	240	...
Jeans, English & Dutch "	60	...	...	...	...	150	860	20,447	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
American "	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	2,660	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sheetings, English "	...	...	380	740	60	2,120	670	3,080	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
American "	140	...	490	...	20	60	1,485	124,430	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	560	...
Dyed Shirtings "	...	...	3,584	...	...	90	...	1,150	...	650	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Browns & Sp. S'tings, White "	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dyed "	...	...	360	...	50	60	150	936	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	50	...
Damasks, Dyed "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...
Chintzes "	180	...	1,288	140	170	804	551	11,484	...	...	...	...	...	550	...	330	...
Printed T-Cloths "	...	...	250	...	...	230	...	8,693	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Printed Twills "	...	...	885	...	...	80	80	9,872	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Turkey Red Shirtings "	...	94	1,986	150	70	708	2,538	16,401	...	237	...	...	...	...	...	120	50
Velvets "	60	...	...	30	30	168	60	2,680	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Velveteens "	...	...	24	...	...	24	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
Handkerchiefs Doz	...	...	1,500	1,400	1,440	454	...	1,213	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	480	...
Muslins Pcs.	100	...	690	...	100	400	200	1,400	...	...	...	9,200	...	...	...	500	...
Dimities "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Cotton Yarn Pcs.	...	...	...	...	264	549	2,076	5,538	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes Pcs.	...	...	168	18	96	168	186	1,634	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	36	12
Medium and Broad Cloths "	18	...	84	12	6	126	62	360	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	48	...
Camlets "	50	...	130	180	280	570	110	660	...	170	...	...	...	...	...	120	40
Long Ells "	...	...	160	120	180	340	60	140	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Lastings "	20	...	190	40	140	690	80	2,440	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	60	60
Crape "	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lastings, Cotton & Italians "	130	...	1,090	90	150	1,460	1,666	36,453	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Lastres, Plain "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Figured "	...	...	760	...	100	320	100	1,458	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Crape "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead in Pigs Pcs.	207	14	...	33	1,209	2,559	...	...	...	307	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron—Nail Rod "	1,130	...	924	134	42	625	420	1,268	...	...	...	210	...	...	...	...	...

GOODS.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			STOCKS AT DATE ARE BASED ON THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RETURNS, DATED 1st JAN., 1885.	
	As above.	For Year From 1st Jan'y 1886.	Against last year same term.	For the Week.	For Year From 1st Jan'y 1886.	Against last year same term.	*At date Estimated.	Against 16th March, 1885.
Grey Shirtings †.....Pcs.	299,419	807,085	770,742	157,172	826,027	759,125	984,000	1,076,000
T-Cloths, 32-in. "	69,274	169,291	165,262	33,465	189,364	200,889	279,900	450,500
36-in. "	6,190	25,805	21,640	9,139	61,345	56,599	119,600	154,800
White Shirtings "	132,502	278,904	210,277	53,628	315,785	292,039	455,200	390,100
Drills, English and Dutch "	36,040	43,195	25,405	15,000	89,695	32,970	79,650	67,400
American "	27,480	42,780	10,740	55,050	96,450	26,250	68,165	25,000
Jeans, English and Dutch "	21,637	25,277	12,060	3,370	22,310	14,400	20,100	27,700
American "	2,700	2,820	420	...	...	...	5,200	12,000
Sheetings, English "	7,080	34,975	30,332	5,916	59,663	37,616	102,800	83,900
Am. "	127,185	151,285	35,700	120,340	233,350	136,755	314,340	188,500
Dyed Shirtings "	5,474	16,213	5,642	6,535	20,854	21,724	10,600	22,000
Bro. & Spot. Shirts, White "	150	900	186	...	3,285	498	4,820	3,600
Dyed "	1,706	6,363	4,633	3,283	6,755	4,024	13,020	680
Damasks, Dyed "	40	510	800	...	...	474	130	2,500
Chintzes "	15,497	34,146	19,375	22,150	85,027	18,776	103,800	54,000
Printed T-Cloths "	9,473	14,636	8,139	2,364	13,996	19,312	57,930	...
Printed Twills "	11,017	19,124	17,812	5,921	45,907	19,831	102,900	84,800
Turkey Red Shirtings "	22,354	57,268	56,150	8,387	63,922	50,997	174,600	89,800
Velvets "	3,148	7,006	4,932	3,562	11,934	7,972	20,250	3,300
Velveteens "	138	1,114	1,434	1,289	10,243	1,421	11,200	970
Handkerchiefs Doz.	6,687	36,357	40,966	6,921	37,789	10,520	98,300	107,700
Muslins Pcs.	12,500	59,300	19,872	23,400	92,226	27,775	113,700	89,300
Dimities "	250	550	200	245	495	...	...	100
Cotton Yarn Pcs.	8,427	21,312	6,778	11,362	28,257	6,642	26,600	6,700
Spanish Stripes Pcs.	2,396	7,356	6,040	1,086	12,392	6,954	19,500	10,900
Medium and Broad Cloths "	727	2,789	2,140	325	5,818	2,252	17,500	19,200
Camlets "	2,310	16,510	17,163	4,967	18,876	12,882	18,800	13,200
Long Ells "	1,100	11,390	14,810	2,509	15,069	10,320	9,200	17,500
Lastings "	3,840	16,035	13,376	3,539	26,682	19,298	36,200	26,700
Crape "	80	200	220	...	160	460	1,160	1,240
Cotton Lastings & Italians "	41,279	66,332	55,899	24,520	109,561	58,524	198,200	83,900
Lastres, Plain "	150	550	600	...	650	558	1,500	100
Figured "	2,978	10,838	8,671	3,579	18,378	6,720	34,500	14,600
Crape "	...	3	...	...	...	...	800	...
Lead in Pigs Pcs.	4,329	27,973	13,932	6,735	29,859	27,424	...	...
Iron—Nail Rod "	4,753	30,570	20,819	8,400	57,196	6,384	...	...

* Exclusive of Import Cargoes ex Glengarry, Menelaus, Ava, River Nith, and Keverdale.

Import-Cargoes declared Thames, Strathleven, Clyde, Atalanta—Cassandra, Jason, Soghalian, and Deucalion; and additional ex Djennah, Telemachus, Oxus, Glenearn, and Ulysses.

† Including English and Dutch 12-lbs.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

17TH MARCH, 1886

EXCHANGE.—On London—Telegraphic Transfer, 4s. 6½d.; Bank Bills, demand, 4s. 7d.; Bank Bills, 4 months' sight, 4s. 7½d.; First-class Credit to Banks, 4 months' sight, 4s. 7½d., 6 months' sight, 4s. 7½d. Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 4s. 7½d.; 6 months' sight, 4s. 8d. On France—Bank Bills, demand, Fcs. 5.77, Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' 5.85; 6 months' sight, 5.88. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 87½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 27½; Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 28. On Bombay—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 304½ & 305; Calcutta, Rs. 304½ & 305. Bullion—Gold Bar, Pekin, 98 touch, £212.75. Silver Bars, £111.15. Mexican Dollars, £73.525. Copper Cash, 1,480.

SHARES.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business during the week has been rather quiet. Shares have changed hands at 185% premium and exchange 73 for cash, and 187½ and 73 for delivery on the 31st current. The market closes quiet with sellers at 185% prem. and 73 exchange.

New Oriental Bank Corporation, Ltd.—A lot has been sold at £10.7.0 and exchange 4/7.

Shanghai Tug Boat Association.—Shares were sold yesterday at £85.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.—There are sellers at £37.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Shares were placed at £210.

Compagnie du Gaz.—A lot was sold at £165. There are buyers at that rate.

Marine Insurance shares.—There is no business to report in this stock.

Fire Insurance shares.—Business was done in Hongkong's at £38½ and exchange 73. A transaction at £381 is reported to-day. In China's a fair business was done at \$30 to \$31 for cash, and \$81 for delivery on the 31st current, with exchange 73 in both cases. The market is quiet with sellers at \$81 cash.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Shares have been sold at £160 and £161. Buyers offer £162, but holders ask £165.

Birt's Wharf Co.—A transaction is reported at £30 for 1st May. If the shares are not taken up on due date, the seller must hold them over, charging 8% interest to the buyer, who must take them up not later than 30th September. The general managers arranged, at a meeting of shareholders held yesterday, to take over the working of the company for three years, from 1st May, paying the shareholders a dividend of 7 per cent. per annum.

Pootung Wharf & Godown Co.—Shares have been sold at from £37½ to £34 cash.

Perak Tin Mining Co., Limited.—The Report and Accounts to 31st December last were presented and passed at the annual general meeting of shareholders held on the 12th current. The statement of accounts shows a balance of £2,552.08 at debit, after payment of balance of Working Account to the end of last year.

Sheridan Mining Co.—One or two lots of shares have changed hands at £75.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—A number of shares have been sold at £150.

Shanghai Electric Co.—Shares have been placed at £5.

Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Debentures of the 1882 issue changed hands at £105.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c.		CASH QUOTATIONS.
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	
<i>Bank.</i>									
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	60,000	\$125	\$125	4,500,000.00	\$63,800.38	31 Dec. 85	* £2½	1 Mar. 86	185%
New Oriental Bank Corp., Ltd.	50,000	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	3½	11 Aug. 85	£10.7
<i>Shipping.</i>									
Shanghai Tug Boat Association	1,000	£100	£100	\$14,304.62	.....	31 Mar. 85	|| 2 %	11 Jan. 86	£85
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	60,000	£10	£10	\$2,892.38	£117.16.7	31 Dec. 84	|| 3 %	4 Aug. 85	£37
Shanghai Shipping Co.	150	£1,000	£1,000	.....	.....	.....	+ 5 %	3 Aug. 85	£700
<i>Docks.</i>									
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	£500	£500	£12,000.00	£5,799.99	31 Dec. 85	* 2 %	15 Jan. 86	325
Pootung Dock Co.	950	£100	£100	.....	£1,622.69	31 Dec. 85	* 5 %	15 Jan. 86	132½
<i>Gas.</i>									
Shanghai Gas Co.	1,500	£100	£100	£51,794.47	£47,565.04	31 Dec. 85	* 6 %	17 Jan. 86	210
Compagnie du Gaz	500	£100	£100	£17,134.69	£89.92	31 Dec. 85	* 6 %	2 Mar. 86	165
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>									
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$600,000.00	\$200,773.71	30 Apl. 85	18 %	11 Aug. 85	\$87
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£200	£50	£100,671.24	£461,023.02	30 June 85	£20.00	5 May 85	£300
Union Ins. Society of Canton Ltd.	2,000	\$1,250	\$125	\$675,000.00	\$439,089.41	30 June 85	\$31.00	12 Oct. 85	\$475
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n Ltd.	8,000	£25	£25	\$85,000.00	\$92,142.93	31 Mar. 85	* 3½	18 Jan. 86	£122
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	\$1,000	\$200	\$28,711.50	\$26,610.93	31 Dec. 84	* 3 %	6 Oct. 85	\$177½
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	£250	£50	\$155,000.00	\$465,214.43	30 Sep. 85	+ 10 %	11 Jan. 86	\$85
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>									
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,000,000.00	\$283,482.55	31 Dec. 85	+ \$55 %	3 Mar. 86	\$381
China Fire Ins. Co., Limited	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$66,700.00	\$168,811.67	31 Dec. 85	+ 30 %	2 Mar. 86	\$81
<i>Wharfs.</i>									
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	2,867	£100	£100	£71,700.00	£68.83	31 Dec. 85	* 5 %	23 Feb. 86	£162
Birt's Wharf Hide-Curing and Wool-Cleaning Company	2,100	£50	£50	£3,449.46	£2,149.50	31 Oct. 85	* 3½ %	7 Jan. 86	£30 for 1 May.
Pootung Wharf & Godown Co.	1,750	£100	£100	.....	£9,418.94	31 Dec. 85	+ 4½ %	9 Feb. 86	£84
<i>Mining.</i>									
Selangor Tin Mining Co.	2,500	\$100	\$100	.....	£80,190.79	18 Dec. 84	None.		\$5
Perak Tin Mining & Smelting Co.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	£2,552.08	31 Dec. 85	None.		\$20
Sheridan Mining Co.	2,800	£100	£100	.....	£8,370.14	31 Dec. 84	£4½	22 Dec. 85	£75
<i>Cargo Boats.</i>									
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	£200	£200	£6,710.47	.....	31 Dec. 85	* 5 %	3 Mar. 86	£150 ex. div.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	£100	£100	£1,000.00	£395.07	31 Dec. 85	+ 5 %	13 Feb. 86	£55 ex. div.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>									
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	6,000	£20	£20	£5,000.00	£85.11.10	31 Dec. 84	+ 4 %	14 May 85	£31½
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co.	5,000	£50	£50	.....	£122,192.29	.....	None.		£20
The Hall & Holtz Co-op'tive Co.	6,000	£50	£50	.....	£2,632.52	28 Feb. 86	£2½		£33

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1875	£ 42,800.00	£ 15,000.00	£ 100	8 %	Dec. & June.	£104 nom.
Do. 1878	£ 24,000.00	£ 24,000.00	£ 100	8 %	Do.	£103
Do. 1882	£ 60,000.00	£ 60,000.00	£ 100	7 %	1 st Oct.	£105 nom.
Do. 1883	£ 45,000.00	£ 45,000.00	£ 100	7 %	Do.	£105 "
Do. 1885	£ 30,000.00	£ 30,000.00	£ 100	7 %	Do.	£105 "
China Merchants' S.N. Co. Debentures	£ 300,000	All.	£ 100	7 %	Quarterly	£106½ ex. 4/7½
Chinese Imperial Government Loan 1881	S. £4,384,000	S. £2,192,000.00	£ 500	8 %	May & Nov.	£510
Do. 1884 A	\$1,394,700.14	\$ 976,290.10	£ 500	8 %	Yearly.	\$ 500 nom.
Do. 1884 B	1,394,700.14	All.	£ 500	8 %	Do.	½ pre. ex int.
Do. 1884 C	\$1,594,700.14	All.	£ 500	8 %	Do.	\$525 ex int.
Do. 1885	\$1,394,700.14	All.	£ 500	8 %	Do.	500 ex int., nom.

* For half-year. || For quarter year. + For year. ‡ A deficit. § Reserve for equalization of dividends. (a) At credit of undivided writing account

J. P. BISSET & Co.